

Upcoming Events

Chickasaw Press Christmas Sale

Dec. 8, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
Dec. 9, 8 a.m.-6 p.m.
1315 Hoppe Blvd.,
Ada, Okla.
(580) 436-7282

Christmas Progressive Dinner

Dec. 10, 4-8 p.m.
(580) 371-9835
Chickasaw White House, Milburn, Okla.
Chickasaw Council House, Tishomingo, Okla.
Chickasaw Bank Museum, Tishomingo
Chickasaw Capitol House, Tishomingo

GOURDget Class

Dec. 13, 2-4 p.m.
ARTesian Gallery & Studios, Sulphur, Okla.
(580) 272-7781

Christmas Celebration, Holiday Art Market & Show

Dec. 17, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Chickasaw Cultural Center, Sulphur
(580) 622-7130

Patta Butcher Silk Painting Class

Dec. 17 (Beginners), 10 a.m.-Noon
Dec. 17 (Advanced), 1-3 p.m.
ARTesian Gallery and Studios, Sulphur
(580) 272-8040

Holiday Canvas Paint

Dec. 17, 10 a.m.-Noon and 1-3 p.m.
ARTesian Gallery and Studios, Sulphur
(580) 272-7781
Arts and Humanities Building, Ada
(580) 272-7781

Wheel Thrown Ceramics Class

Jan. 9 - March 8, 6-8 p.m.
ARTesian Gallery and Studios, Sulphur
(580) 272-5520



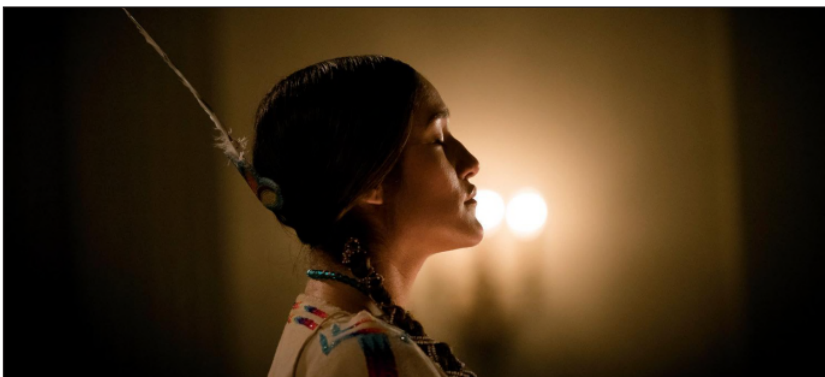
Chickasaw Times



Online

Film festival stalwart

‘Te Ata’ earning high praise



Q’ORIANKA KILCHER

ORLANDO, Fla. – The acclaimed Chickasaw Nation-produced film “Te Ata” is receiving recognition across the country.

The movie, based on the inspirational true story of Chickasaw storyteller Mary Thompson Fisher, was recently named “Best Picture” at the 11th annual Orlando Film Festival. “Te Ata” has also reaped awards at the Heartland Film Festival, Gallup Film Festival, American Indian Film Festival, San Diego Film Festival, and Tulsa American Film Festival.

“Te Ata” shares the remarkable life of the Chickasaw storyteller best known by her stage name, Te Ata, “bearer of the morning.”

The film follows Te Ata’s life as she traverses cultural barriers and helps change public perceptions of Native America. Her storied career spanned the 1920s through the 1980s.

“Te Ata’s” cast includes Q’orianka Kilcher as Te Ata; Gil Birmingham as Te Ata’s father, Thomas Benjamin (T.B.) Thompson; Oscar-nominee Graham Greene plays Chickasaw Gov. Douglas H. Johnston; Brigid Brannagh is Te Ata’s mother; and MacKenzie Astin portrays Te Ata’s husband, renowned scientist Dr. Clyde Fisher.

The film opened the Orlando Film Festival Oct. 19. An Oct. 23 encore screening Sunday was at Cobb Plaza Cinema Cafe in downtown Orlando.

“Te Ata” producer Paul Sirmons, director Nathan Frankowski, content producer and writer Jeannie Barbour and production designer Andrew White hosted a question-and-answer session with more than 100 members of the audience.

“The crowd was very enthusiastic about the film,” Ms. Barbour said. “It’s always great to sit with the audience to listen for reaction to the various scenes. Every audience is different in their response. But all have been positive, and so was the Orlando crowd. It makes me feel like we have

done something very special with this film.

“People have connected with its story.”

Associate producer Angela Owen, along with several members of the cast and crew, also attended the screening.

“Te Ata” production designer Andrew White accepted the “Best Picture” award on behalf of the production team during the Oct. 23 closing ceremonies.

More than 320 films, plus 63 features and 261 short films, were selected for screening at the Orlando Film Festival.

Audience Choice - Heartland Award

“Te Ata” was also selected as Audience Choice Award Winner, Narrative Feature, at the 25th annual Heartland Film Festival, Oct. 20-30 in Indianapolis. Audience members voted “Te Ata” the top award winner in the narrative feature category.

Heartland Film is a curator and supporter of purposeful filmmaking, honoring a wide variety of cinema and awarding storytellers from all over the world.

Gallup Awards

“Te Ata” was honored recently with several awards at the Gallup (New Mexico) Film Festival, Sept. 16-18. Awards included Audience Choice Award-Best Drama Feature; Best Cinematography; Best Screenplay; Best Male Performance, Gil Birmingham; and Best Original Music.

The Gallup Film Festival showcases and promotes exceptional films to the entertainment industry.

American Indian Film Festival Awards

Mr. Frankowski earned “Best Director” honors for his work on “Te Ata” during November’s 41st Annual American Indian Film Festival in San Francisco.

Mr. Birmingham garnered “Best Actor” awards at the festival’s Nov. 11 awards ceremony.

SEE **TE ATA**, Page2

Season’s Greetings



GOV. BILL ANOATUBBY

Governor,
the Chickasaw
Nation

We send our warmest regards to our Chickasaw veterans who have served our country so honorably; to our Chickasaw elders who are the foundation of our tribe; to our Chickasaw families for whom we wish much peace, love and success.

We ask God to bless our Chickasaw children, whom we cherish so deeply.

For our children, we pray they enjoy wonderful, long and happy lives.

This Christmas season is the season of love, peace, charity and hope. We pray for those among us who are dealing with sorrow in their lives. May they be granted compassion and relief from their burdens.

Our prayer is that we answer the call when the opportunity comes to help our fellow man.

The season of peace and fullness of spirit has arrived! God bless you, your family and our beloved Chickasaw Nation!

Warmest holiday wishes to you from all of us at the Chickasaw Nation!

During this special season, we are thankful for the multitude of blessings bestowed on us by almighty God. We are thankful for our families, our friends and our tribe.

With God’s grace, Chickasaws have come together over the generations to build a strong, united tribe. It is truly a blessing our ancestors made so many sacrifices that we might prosper.

This Christmas season, we extend special holiday wishes to all our military men and women.

Artesian plans special touches to celebrate the holiday season

‘Tis the season for Christmas cheer! Chickasaw Country celebrates Christmas in a big way with several festive events sure to put you in the holiday spirit. Events are scheduled across the Chickasaw Nation.

Holiday Films Galore

Classic Christmas movies will be featured at the McSwain Theatre and Chickasaw Cultural Center Anoli’ Theater this holiday season.

McSwain Theatre movies include:
· “White Christmas,” Dec. 15
· “It’s A Wonderful Life,” Dec. 22
Anoli’ Theater movies include:
· “Elf,” Dec. 10
· “Home Alone,” Dec. 17

The McSwain Theatre is at 130 W. Main Street, Ada, Okla. The Chickasaw Cultural Center is at 867 Cooper Memorial Drive, Sulphur, Okla.

Celebration of Lights through Dec. 31

Enjoy the twinkling, festive lights at the Chickasaw Cultural Center during the Celebration of Lights drive-thru display. Dozens of displays featuring traditional Christmas themes and Chickasaw greetings are included in the impressive light display.

The Celebration of Lights display will be open to the public at no charge every evening from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., through Saturday, Dec. 31.

Chickasaw Press Christmas Book Sale

The Chickasaw Press is hosting a Christmas book sale Thursday, Dec. 8, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Friday, Dec. 9, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. at 1315 Hoppe Blvd., Ada.

All Press books will be 20 percent off.

The Chickasaw Press preserves, perpetuates and provides awareness of Chickasaw history and culture. The Press publishes research about Chickasaw history and culture and makes the information accessible to the Chickasaw people.

The event is free to attend and open to the public. Holiday refreshments will be provided.

For more information, contact Marissa Moore at (580) 436-7282.

Holiday-themed trek in Tishomingo Dec. 10

The Chickasaw Council House Museum, Chickasaw Capitol, Chickasaw Bank Museum and Chickasaw White House will feature holiday decorations during the Christmas at the Museums and Progressive Dinner. The event is set for 4 p.m. to 8 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 10 in Tishomingo and Emet, Okla.

Appetizers, dinner, hot drinks and dessert will be served as participants go from one location to the next. A shuttle will be available to transport guests

SEE **ARTESIAN**, Page2

Chickasaw veterans lay wreath at Tomb of the Unknowns



Lee Jennings, left, a World War II veteran, and Hank Cease, center, a retired U.S. Marine, lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington National Cemetery on Nov. 9.

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Chickasaw warriors laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington National Cemetery Nov. 10 to honor veterans who have made the ultimate sacrifice defending freedom.

Four retired Chickasaw veterans represented their tribe at the national shrine. They included Vietnam veteran and Hank Cease (USMC), of Goose Creek, S.C.; 30-year veteran George Riddle (USA) of Yuma, Ariz.; 21-year veteran Danny Landreth (USN), of Ardmore, Okla.; and Lee Jennings (USAF), of Marlow, Okla., who served in World War II and the Korean War.

“The experience was overwhelming,” Mr. Landreth said, “especially to be in the presence of the other great and honorable veterans. To lay the wreath was probably the pinnacle of my military experience.

“You are given an opportunity to represent someone who gave his life, someone who can’t speak. We have to speak for them, otherwise they will be forgotten.”

Mr. Riddle also said the experience was “the best thing that ever happened to me. It was such an honor and a privilege to represent the group. It just left me speechless and brought tears to my eyes.”

Mr. Riddle served two tours of duty fighting in Vietnam during his lengthy military career.

The “group” referenced by Mr. Riddle are 19 retired military veterans who are also citizens of the Chickasaw Nation. Each year, the tribe sends warriors to tour the nation’s capital.

Governor Bill Anoatubby, also a veteran, said the trip was an expression of appreciation to Chickasaws who have served our country.

“Veterans Day helps us remember the debt of gratitude we owe the special group of men and women who served in the armed forces,” Gov. Anoatubby said. “While this time of year offers a unique opportunity to honor their service, is important that we always remember the sacrifice and dedication of

SEE **VETERANS**, Page2

Upcoming Events Cont'd

GOURDget Class
Jan. 10, 6:30 – 8 p.m.
Arts and Humanities
Building, Ada
(580) 272-7781

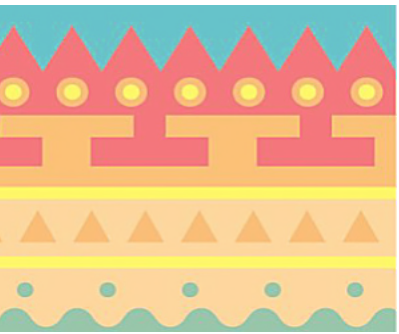
Community Arts and
Crafts Class -
Finger Weaving
Jan. 17, 2-4 p.m.
Remington Park, Okla-
homa City
(405) 424-1000

GOURDget Class
Jan. 17, 2-4 p.m.
ARTesian Gallery and
Studios, Sulphur
(580) 272-7781

Ada Senior Center
Gift Shop preps for
the holidays

The gift shop located inside the Chickasaw Nation Ada Senior Center has extended its hours and selection just in time for holiday shopping. The gift shop is open from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday – Friday.

The Ada Senior Center is located at 1005 Chamber Loop Road, in Ada. Call (580) 436-1007 for more information.



TE ATA' | CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“Te Ata” was nominated for “Best Film,” Graham Green was nominated for “Best Actor” and Q’orianka Kilcher was honored with a “Best Actress” nomination.

The movie screened Nov. 10 during the festival’s closing night. The American Indian Film Festival is hosted by the American Indian Film Institute. The institute fosters understanding of the culture, traditions and contemporary issues of Native Americans. The festival is the world’s oldest and best known exposition dedicated to Native Americans in cinema. Since its inaugural year the film festival has screened more than 3,100 native films.

Best Native American Film, San Diego Film Festival

“Te Ata” earned the Kumeyaay Eagle Award for “Best Native American Film” at the San Diego Film Festival Oct. 2. A jury of critics chose the film for the award. The movie was one of 100 films screened at the festival, from more than 2,000 submissions.

Apache artist and actor Ruben Chato crafted the Golden Eagle Film Award, which was presented during the ceremony.

Tulsa American Film Festival

Q’orianka Kilcher was honored as “Best Feature Film Actress” for her portrayal of “Te Ata” during the Oct. 12-16 Tulsa American Film Festival.

The Tulsa American Film Festival features independent works, with special focus on Native American, Latino, Oklahoma-based and student filmmakers.

For more information about “Te Ata” the movie, visit TeAtaMovie.com, Facebook page facebook.com/TeAtaMovie or “@TeAtaMovie” on Twitter and Instagram. Connect with “Te Ata” social media on all platforms using #TeAtaMovie.

CONTRIBUTED BY Dana Lance, Media Relations.

VETERANS | CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Nineteen Chickasaw military veterans recently joined in a three-day tour of Washington, D.C. The trip was sponsored by the Chickasaw Nation to honor the veterans for their military service. The veterans, at the Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington National Cemetery include, front row from left on ground level, Don “Red” Blevins, Stockton, Calif.; Larry Sills, Weatherford, Texas; Stacy Thomas, Kingfisher, Okla.; Lee and Jim Jennings, both of Marlow, Okla.; Hank Cease, Goose Creek, S.C.; and Danny Landreth, Ardmore, Okla. Second row from left on step are Jim Sanders, Norman, Okla.; Jamie Scott, Seminole, Okla.; Johnny Allen, Shawnee, Okla.; George Riddle, Yuma, Ariz.; and Lonnie Sands, Dodge City, Kan. Third row from left, Leonard Monroe, Ada, Okla.; Ray McCarter, Marlow, Okla.; Michael Moore, Olathe, Kan.; and Bill Burkett, Vancouver, Wash. Back row from left, Sam Gabaldon, Las Vegas, Nev.; Douglas Keel, Katy, Texas; and R.A. Beshirs, Tishomingo, Okla.

those who gave of themselves to preserve our freedoms and way of life.”

This year, the three-day excursion took the warriors to monuments honoring the nation’s greatest leaders and sites commemorating wars where Americans have fought with valor and dignity in the name of freedom.

“It is always an emotional thing to honor a soldier, particularly an unknown soldier,” Mr. Cease said.

This was the second wreath-laying of Mr. Cease’s career. He participated in a ceremony at the Punch Bowl in Hawaii. Formally known as the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, it is located in Honolulu and honors military personnel killed in action.

“I was still an active duty Marine when the Hawaii ceremony was held,” Mr. Cease said.

During his second Vietnam tour, he suffered serious wounds and was returned to the U.S. for treatment.

“When I received the card telling me I was a Chickasaw warrior, it was one of my proudest moments,” he said.

Approximately two years ago, Gov. Anoatubby was determined to provide the tribe’s veterans with increased benefits and recognition. The Chickasaw Warrior Society was launched and the tribe is currently building a Chickasaw Warrior Society building on the campus of the Chickasaw Nation Medical Center in Ada, Okla.

The site was selected to assist veterans from a centralized location. Completion is scheduled for 2017. The staff will assist veterans in accessing all resources available through the Chickasaw Nation and other sources. The facility will also serve as a place for members of the Chickasaw Warrior Society, other veterans and those in active service to come together for fellowship and to build relationships.

At 89, Mr. Jennings stepped out of a wheelchair and walked to lay the wreath. He used only a cane to assist him. After the wreath was placed, he walked back with an active duty soldier flanking him as he rejoined the group.

“It was great,” Mr. Jennings said. “I was honored to be asked to do it. God has blessed me and I am blessed to be Chickasaw.”

CONTRIBUTED BY Gene Lehmann, Media Relations.

ARTESIAN | CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

to the Chickasaw Bank and Chickasaw White House.

Christmas Celebration and Fine Arts Market, Dec. 17

Santa is on his way for the annual Christmas Celebration and Fine Arts Market Saturday, Dec. 17 at the Chickasaw Cultural Center.

Explore the Fine Arts Market, featuring a variety of works by Chickasaw artists. Enjoy an array of holiday activities including Christmas films, pictures with Santa, activities in the traditional village and Native American Christmas ornament workshops.

Holiday Canvas Paint, Dec. 17

Chickasaw Nation Arts & Humanities introduces holiday canvas paint classes, Saturday, Dec. 17, in Sulphur and Ada from 10 a.m. - noon or 1-3 p.m.

This event is open to the public and allows families the opportunity to create holiday-themed Native designs through painting.

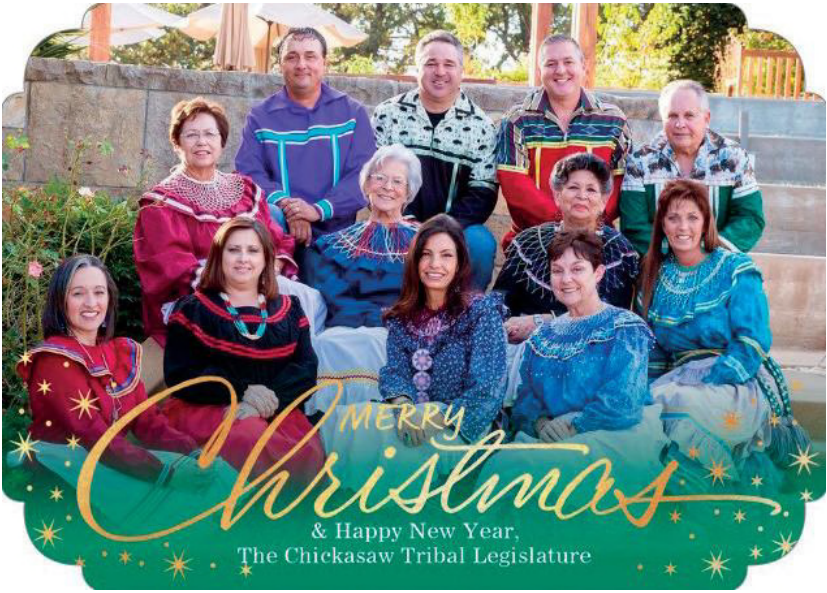
Class size is limited, so reserve your seat now.

- Arts & Humanities Building 201 N. Broadway, Ada, Okla.
- ARTesian Gallery and Studios 100 West Muskogee St., Sulphur, Okla.

First Day of Winter Celebration, Dec. 21

Crisp, cold air and a blanket of snow are what many people picture when they think of winter. The frosty season will officially begin Wednesday, Dec. 21 and the Chickasaw Cultural Center is celebrating the beginning of winter with a celebration.

The First Day of Winter Celebration will feature numerous activities for the entire family. Guests can enjoy live music, demonstrations and crafts, traditional games, storytelling and much more.



CHISTMAS LIGHTS
AT THE CAPITOL

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STARTING AT 6 P.M., NOVEMBER 29.

ENJOY OUR COME-AND-GO RECEPTION,
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CAPITOL AS YOU START YOUR DRIVE AROUND
TO VIEW THE LIGHTS.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION,
CALL (580) 371-9835.

the Chickasaw Nation

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All editorials and letters will become the property of the Chickasaw Times. Editorials must be signed by the author and include the author’s address.

Deadline for submission is the 15th of each month prior to publication. Submissions can be mailed, faxed, hand-delivered or e-mailed.

Films, lights, music, markets...and more!

Many holiday happenings to enjoy throughout Chickasaw Nation!

Artesian Hotel presents 3rd annual Classic Christmas celebration.

The Artesian Hotel, Casino and Spa unwraps the holiday season with lavish decorations, carolers, carriage rides, live reindeer, “Breakfast with Santa” and more.

Through Dec. 26, Artesian guests will enjoy exclusive gifts as they arrive in their rooms, including Bedré Fine Chocolate, hot chocolate K-Cups® and a 2016 Artesian Hotel Classic Christmas ornament. Complimentary hot cocoa and apple cider will also

be available in the lobby daily throughout the season.

Guests can make arrangements to meet their favorite North Pole celebrity on Dec. 10 and 17 at 8 and 10:30 a.m. for “Breakfast with Santa.” A hot breakfast will be served in the ballroom while Santa visits with guests and poses for photos. Each “Breakfast with Santa” reservation includes a 4x6 portrait with the option to purchase additional prints online. Live reindeer will greet guests from 8 a.m. to noon as they enter and exit the hotel for

“Breakfast with Santa.” Tickets are \$25 per person or \$250 per table of 10. Reservations are required.

A new tradition awaits guests this year! The Artesian will offer traditional gingerbread house decorating classes. Classes are Dec. 10 and Dec. 17 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$20 per gingerbread house. Reservations are required.

Carolers in 19th century dress will serenade visitors with Christmas favorites from 4 to 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays during the second and third weekends of December. During those

same weekends, Mrs. Claus will sit by the fireplace, read stories and sing carols for the Artesian’s young guests from 6 to 8 p.m. Hotel guests can also treat themselves to milk and cookies from Santa from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. daily in the 2nd floor common area.

Every Friday and Saturday through Dec. 23, guests can enjoy horse-drawn carriage rides from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. The rides will feature a tour through historic downtown Sulphur to enjoy the light displays on the plaza. Tickets are \$40 per carriage ride. As carriages vary in size, reservations are required.

While at the Artesian, guests can pose behind an oversized picture frame to create a unique photograph to commemorate their stay. Visitors are encouraged to share and tag photos with the hashtag #TistheArtesian on social media.

Tickets for “Breakfast with Santa,” gingerbread house decorating classes, and carriage rides are available by calling (855) 455-5255. For more information or to book a room at the Artesian Hotel, visit www.artesianhotel.com.

‘Rhythm & Routes’ Landmark McSwain Theatre on Oklahoma’s virtual music trail



THE MCSWAIN THEATRE

ADA, Okla. - An iconic Ada landmark that helped put the careers of several entertainers on the map, will now be included in a virtual Oklahoma music trail “Rhythm & Routes.”

The McSwain Theatre will be added to the web destination this month. The destination can be found at the state’s tourism site TravelOK.com.

The historic Spanish Mission-style theatre, which has stood at the corner of East Main and Townsend since 1920, will join the ranks of other prestigious Oklahoma music venues and entertainers honored on the site.

“Rhythm & Routes” examines Oklahoma’s rich musical heritage

and offers fans a platform to explore the state’s cultural diversity and its impact on the world music scene.

The McSwain Theatre’s influence on the music scene is legend. On the site appear profiles of Mae Boren Axton, Blake Shelton, Hoyt Axton and Gene Autry, who have all appeared at the McSwain Theatre.

For more than 90 years, the McSwain Theatre has been an entertainment beacon in south-central Oklahoma, offering a compelling variety of entertainment. The theatre began life hosting silent movies and vaudeville shows.

The McSwain cemented its place in state music history by hosting a variety of musical acts for more than a quarter-century. Budding

musicians and nationally-known musical entertainers have been featured in the McSwain spotlight.

“We are honored to be included in this prestigious group of elite performers and iconic music venues,” said Jae L. Stilwell, longtime McSwain performer, who now serves as the theatre’s general manager.

“The McSwain Theatre is committed to hosting and supporting rising performers, as well as offering family-friendly entertainment well into the future.”

Ms. Stilwell began working at the theatre when her uncle, the late Paul Alford, purchased and renovated the McSwain in 1992. The renovations transformed the theatre from a shuttered twin

movie theatre into a live musical performance venue, thanks to Mr. Alford’s appreciation of Branson-style shows.

It was during this time the theatre launched the monthly “Jae L. and Crossover” shows as well as the Grand Awards show, which still continue, solidifying the McSwain Theatre’s reputation as a premier location for entertainment in Ada and surrounding areas.

Purchased by the Chickasaw Nation in 2002, the theatre was renovated to reflect its original grandeur and architecture. State-of-the-art lighting and sound systems were installed, as well as 560 plush theatre seats, red velvet stage curtains and elegant light fixtures.

Since the McSwain’s rebirth, the theatre has continued to offer eclectic entertainment, from the Glenn Miller Band, to Easton

Corbin and Pam Tillis, several children’s productions, recitals and a weekly movie offering.

The McSwain Theatre joins other legendary Oklahoma music venues listed on “Rhythm & Routes,” including Deep Deuce and the Zoo Amphitheatre in Oklahoma City, Cain’s Ballroom and The Church Studio in Tulsa, the Muskogee Civic Center, and The Farm in Stillwater.

Launched in 2014 with 43 initial inductees, “Rhythm & Routes” also honors musicians from many genres including Carrie Underwood, Roger Miller, Vince Gill, Toby Keith, Roy Clark, Kings of Leon, Leon Russell, Wanda Jackson, Woody Guthrie, Kristin Chenoweth, and many more.

For more information about the McSwain Theatre, visit mcswaintheatre.com.

CONTRIBUTED BY Dana Lance, Media Relations.

Stay connected to your tribe!

‘Tis the season for gathering, when we draw closer to friends and family and make an extra effort to stay in touch with loved ones and far-away friends. It is easier now, thanks to technology, to keep your ties strong.

Following are some ways to stay connected with the Chickasaw Nation.

1. Visit us at www.chickasaw.net for news, events calendar, programs, services and the most current information.
2. Update your address so we can send you the information you need by mail. Visit www.chickasaw.net/addresschange to update your address or call (888) 661-0137. Your updated address also helps us respond in the event of a natural disaster or weather emergency.

3. Read *the Chickasaw Times*. Receive this monthly citizen newspaper each month, read online at www.chickasawtimes.net, or download the app to your smart device.
4. Find us on your favorite social media platform. Stay in touch with the Chickasaw Nation on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter to see news about citizens and current events. Friend us @ “The Chickasaw Nation” on Facebook, tweet us @ChickasawNation and follow us @ChickasawNation on Instagram and Periscope.
5. Download our apps. *Get the Chickasaw Times*, programs and services guide and the Anompa language app on your smart device for free.
6. Listen to KCNP community radio at 89.3 and 89.5 FM in central and southeastern Oklahoma, or stream it online. Visit www.kcnpradio.org to hear information

- on tribal news, cultural programs, music and talk shows.
7. See Profiles of a Nation, the Thrive series, and news and event videos on Chickasaw TV. Visit www.chickasaw.tv to watch videos and stay connected.
 8. Subscribe to *Chokma* magazine. This biannual magazine published by the Chickasaw Press illuminates what it means to be Chickasaw. Visit www.chickasawpress.com to learn how to subscribe.
 9. Come and see us at the Chickasaw Cultural Center and the Artesian Hotel in Sulphur, Okla., or the Chickasaw White House in Milburn, Okla. Holiday events like gingerbread house workshops, storytimes, make and takes, a light festival add a tradition of special holiday memories to carry on for generations to come.

CONTRIBUTED BY Jennifer Jones, Public Affairs.

Coming soon!

Rosetta Stone Chickasaw was created through a collaboration between Chickasaw fluent speakers, linguists and the award-winning Rosetta Stone team. It was made especially for you, the people of the Chickasaw Nation.

The Chickasaw Nation has over 63,000 citizens but fewer than 50 native speakers. Now more than ever, you can ensure the continuation of our ancestral language for generations to come.

Forty immersive lessons enable you to learn conversational Chickasaw phrases used in daily life, and 40 more lessons will roll out next year. Work through the lessons at your own pace, and remember, practice makes perfect!

All registered Chickasaw citizens and their families are eligible to apply to access the Rosetta Stone online program. Visit ChickasawLanguage.com to get started.

LEARN MORE

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Heritage Center agreement signed, culture and history highlighted

Chickasaw celebration in the homelands

TUPELO, Miss. - The front lawn of City Hall in Tupelo set the scene for a historic day in the Chickasaw homelands.

On October 28 the Chickasaw Celebration invited the public to experience Chickasaw heritage and culture. Booths showcased traditional foods, language lessons, storytelling, artist and cultural demonstrations and live music. This first celebration of its kind in Tupelo was pioneered by the Chickasaw Inkana Foundation, a nonprofit group dedicated to preserving tribal history in the area.

A grant from the Mississippi Arts Commission funded the attendance of 1,200 fourth-grade students from the Tupelo area at the celebration. Students sampled pashofa cooked in a large pot over a fire. Chickasaw elder Lee Frazier stirred the hominy mixture with a long stick as inquisitive children watched.

“It makes you feel good when you come up here,” Mr. Frazier said. “Once our ancestors were here, and when you come back you feel like you are at home. It makes you really proud.”

The Chickasaw Dance Troupe led social dances throughout the day and “Injunity” performed native flute-infused rock music on the Fairpark stage.

Dance Troupe member Felix Shico shared his culture and heritage with school children on the same ground where his ancestors once lived.

“To be able to share and preserve our traditions, dances and language by sharing them is amazing because I don’t think there are any Chickasaws left here to do that,” Mr. Shico said.

Inside city hall, an announcement was made regarding the Chickasaw Heritage Center, projected to be built on a preserved site in Tupelo adjacent to the Natchez Trace.

“This property is historic and possesses Chickasaw cultural effects worthy of preservation,” Chickasaw Inkana Foundation director Brad Prewitt said. “Through the commitment of the City of Tupelo, the generosity of the Chickasaw Nation and the action of the National Park Service and its Natchez Trace Parkway, this acquisition is complete and we have determined the location of the long awaited Chickasaw Heritage Center.”

An agreement was signed by project partners, including the Chickasaw Nation, the City of Tupelo, the National Parks Service and the Chickasaw Inkana Foundation. Representatives from each organization offered comments at the event, including Governor Bill Anoatubby; Carol Anderson of the Mississippi Humanities Council; City of Tupelo mayor Jason Shelton; Chickasaw Inkana Foundation chairman Hank Holmes; Mary Risser, Superintendent of the Natchez Trace Parkway; and



A gathering of Chickasaws and Mississippi fourth-graders during the Chickasaw Celebration Oct. 28 in Tupelo, Mississippi. The homeland demonstrations and education celebrated cultural preservation in front of Tupelo City Hall. Photo by Jacquelyn Sparks



LaDonna Brown, Research and Cultural Interpretation director, explains the purpose and importance of pine needle baskets in early Chickasaw life to local fourth-graders at the Chickasaw Celebration in Tupelo, Mississippi. Photo by Jacquelyn Sparks



Felix Shico, guest relations specialist, at left, and Eddie Postoak, Cultural Resources director, lead local fourth-graders in stomp dance demonstrations at the Oct. 28 Chickasaw Celebration in Tupelo, Mississippi. Photo by Jacquelyn Sparks



Chickasaw Nation, City of Tupelo, Mississippi, and National Park Service officials signed documents October 25 in Tupelo for the creation of a Chickasaw cultural heritage site near the Natchez Trace. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed in conjunction with the Chickasaw Celebration in Tupelo. From left, Brad Prewitt, executive director of the Chickasaw Inkana Foundation; Jason Shelton, mayor of the City of Tupelo; Governor of the Chickasaw Nation Bill Anoatubby; Joe Watkins, Ph.D., Choctaw citizen and American Indian Liaison for the National Park Service; and H.T. “Hank” Holmes, chairman of the Chickasaw Inkana Foundation. Photo by Jacquelyn Sparks



The Chickasaw Nation Culture and Humanities staff visited the Chickasaw Preserve in Tupelo, Mississippi in October for the Chickasaw Celebration.



Language Education coordinator Brandon White Eagle and Virginia Puller-Bolen, Chickasaw language specialist, sing traditional hymns in Chickasaw to local fourth-graders at the Chickasaw Celebration in Tupelo, Mississippi. Photo by Jacquelyn Sparks



Art instructor Gwen Postoak teaches local fourth-graders how to make traditional corn husk dolls during the Chickasaw Celebration in Tupelo, Mississippi. Photo by Jacquelyn Sparks

Joe Watkins, Native American Liaison Officer of the National Park Service and a Choctaw citizen.

“These partnerships are key,” Gov. Anoatubby said. “These alliances allow us to do more.”

“Even though the Chickasaw people moved away from these lands 180 years ago, this has always been our home. Our history, our culture, our very identity are forever rooted in this Mississippi soil. The idea of a museum or a cultural center to exist in Tupelo to preserve our history and share our culture has been discussed numerous times. We’ve long believed that this is the right place for a Chickasaw heritage center, and now is the right time.”

The land set aside for the heritage center is 162 acres adjacent to the Chickasaw Village located on the Natchez Trace. Both the

village and the trace are historic sites preserved by the National Park Service. In addition to the goals of preserving Chickasaw heritage and history, the partners hope to increased tourism in Tupelo and northern Mississippi.

“We are proud to continue to tell the story of the Chickasaw people and to share that history with a great nation,” Mr. Shelton said. “This was the Chickasaw homeland many hundreds of years before Europeans came to this land and that’s something we revere. I think it’s only fitting that one of the first agreements of this kind is taking place right here in Tupelo. We are honored to participate.”

Scholarly talks took place throughout the day of celebration, including an investigation of the genetic evolution of the white dog by Chickasaw descen-

dent and archaeologist Dr. Kent Smith. Dr. Smith used fossil comparisons of canines to determine whether the white dog could have been a wolf or domestic dog.

Chickasaw citizen Paul Jennings and his wife, Connie, traveled from Houston, Texas to be part of the historic day. They spent their time in Mississippi visiting historic Chickasaw sites.

“We really enjoyed the day, especially the panel of speakers on Chickasaw history,” Mr. Jennings said. “It’s always great to get together with other Chickasaws, and we look forward to returning to the homeland for more events like this. It’s something special to be here today.”

Brady Davis, director for homeland affairs for the Chickasaw Nation in Tupelo, expressed his enthusiasm for the celebration and groundbreaking agreement.

“Everybody has a different type of experience when they visit the Chickasaw sites,” Mr. Davis said. “Some make their way to the preserves and you can see the look on their face, this overwhelming feeling of love or connection to their ancestors. They are walking where their ancestors were born, raised children, died, protected their villages. There’s just so much history in such a small space. It’s overwhelming for some people and they tear up or get this grin on their faces. They just know they are in the right place.”

For more information about the Chickasaw Inkana Foundation or updates about preservation efforts in the area, visit www.inkana.org.

CONTRIBUTED BY Jennifer Jones, Public Affairs.

Kids enjoy Chikasha Osto ‘Pumpkin Festival’ at Chickasaw Gardens



Children gather at the traditional village for a storytelling with Ace Greenwood.



Jayvyn Warrior hand-picked his pumpkin from the pumpkin patch from Chickasaw Gardens at the festival.



Cultural Resources Cultural Activities Coordinator Buddy Parchcorn leads children in stomp dance.

DAVIS, Okla. - More than 700 children enjoyed the 2nd Annual Chikasha Osto “Pumpkin Festival” Oct. 17-19 in Davis.

Kids from Chickasaw Youth Clubs, Chickasaw Nation After-School Program, Head Start and the Chickasaw Na-

tion Child Care Development Center gathered at the Chickasaw Gardens for Chikasha Osto. This fall event emphasizes Chickasaw culture and healthy activities in a natural environment.

The Chickasaw Dance Troupe kicked off the event with a

Snake Dance, a traditional symbol of friendship. Children learned the importance of fitness and living a healthy lifestyle from the Chickasaw Nation Youth Clubs’ Health and Fitness team. Everyone joined in a stomp dance and a fun fitness activity featuring “Dr. Fit.”

After the introduction, children enjoyed various activities including inflatables, miniature carnival rides, a rock climbing wall and petting zoo. Students also picked their own pumpkins from the Chickasaw Garden’s pumpkin patch.

A hay ride to the miniature traditional village near Chickasaw Farms was also available. In the village, children listened to stories told by Chickasaw elders, played stickball and shot blow darts.

CONTRIBUTED BY Carmen Carter, Public Affairs.

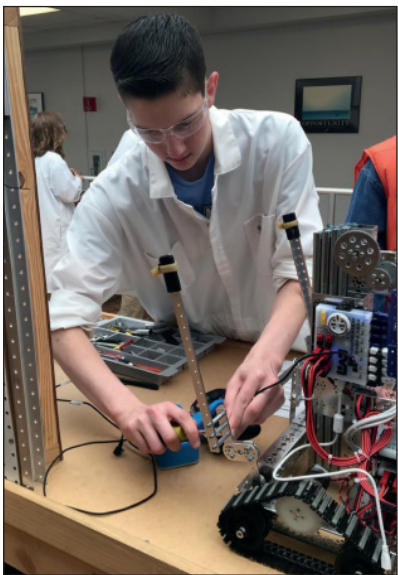
Chickasaw robotics student nominated for honor

ADA, Okla. - High school senior and robotics veteran Jacob Nichols, a Chickasaw citizen, was recently nominated for the dean's list, an honor recognized by the First Tech Challenge league for an outstanding robotics student.

"Rarely do you have a student who consistently makes you say, 'wow!,' but Jacob Nichols is that student," Beth Alcorn-Benton, science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) teacher, said.

Jacob was introduced to the Chickasaw Nation Science, Technology and Math (STM) Program when he attended the summer Aviation and Space Academy (CNASA). The camp sparked his interest in STM and he returned each summer for four years. While attending CNASA in 2012, Jacob won the prestigious Top Gun award, given to the student whom displays graciousness, leadership and aptitude.

He also joined the Chickasaw Nation's LEGO League. He and three teammates were pilot members of the league in Ardmore. There, he displayed a talent for building and programming and was instrumental in the robot's performance.



Jacob Nichols

"Under these circumstances, his natural leadership abilities thrived," Ms. Alcorn-Benton said.

Jacob's skills were honed when he was promoted to the Chickasaw Nation's First Tech Challenge (FTC) and First Robotics Challenge (FRC) programs where he has been a valuable member for three years. Outside of robotics, he has created a hydraulic robot arm, built, and tested wheel traction on a LEGO

Mind storm robot he built and made a wind tunnel. He has won Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion awards.

Jacob still finds time and energy for other activities, including music and flying. Through his CNASA experience, he discovered a love of flight. He has spent time in flight around the Oklahoma City and Tulsa areas. His other love is music. Jacob has been part of The Refuge and Pocket Full of Nichols bands, both of which have won first place in state church competitions.

"The key to his success is his desire to give back," Ms. Alcorn-Benton said. "To date, he has volunteered over 123 hours through sharing what the Chickasaw Nation and the FIRST® robotics programs have to offer students. He mentors other students in building and programming and teaches them skills that will help them perform their tasks easier. He is a natural born leader."

CONTRIBUTED BY Jennifer Jones, Public Affairs with Beth Alcorn-Benton, STM.

Youth clothing grant applications close Dec. 31

The deadline to apply for the Chickasaw Nation Youth Clothing Grant is Dec. 31.

This program provides eligible Chickasaw students with a \$200 grant once per school year to purchase school clothes.

Chickasaw citizens, ages three through high school seniors, can apply online at www.chickasaw.net/youthclothinggrant.

For more information, contact Youth Services at (580) 272-5585 or clothinggrantprogram@chickasaw.net.

Apply through Feb. 1 for college clothing grant

Chickasaw citizens attending college are eligible to apply for the Chickasaw Nation College Clothing Grant.

Clothing grants are available to Chickasaw college students pursuing bachelor's, master's or doctorate degrees.

Full-time students will receive \$300 Visa gift cards; part-time students will receive \$150 Visa gift cards.

Applications can be found at www.chickasaw.net/collegeclothing. Deadline to apply is Feb. 1.

Full-time Chickasaw Nation employees are not eligible for this grant.

For more information, contact Youth Services at (580) 310-6620.

GOURDget classes January 10 & 17

Chickasaw Nation Arts & Humanities is offering GOURDget classes with Dustin Mater.

Classes will be:

- Tuesday, Jan. 10, from 6:30-8 p.m. in the Arts & Humanities building, 201 N. Broadway Ave., Ada.
- Tuesday, Jan. 17, from 2-4 p.m. at the ARTesian Gallery & Studios, 100 W. Muskogee St., Sulphur.

Classes are free, and materials will be provided. Classes are limited to 10 people. For more information, contact Arts & Humanities at (580) 272-5520.

VEX IQ excels



Jordan Nichols drives the VEX IQ team robot while teammate Raphael Padilla observes at the Nov. 5 qualifier in Muskogee, Okla. Chickasaw Nation teams excelled.

U.S. Rep. Tom Cole honored with public service award

ADA, Okla. - Chickasaw citizen and U.S. Rep. Tom Cole (R-Okla.) was presented the Harland C. Stonecipher award for Public Service Nov. 9 for his longstanding service in representing the state. The ceremony was part of the second annual Founder's Day Event coordinated by LegalShield, the company the late Mr. Stonecipher founded in Ada in 1972.

Mike Turpin, former Oklahoma attorney general and current chairman of the Oklahoma City National Memorial Museum, introduced Rep. Cole, saying he was much more than a politician. "(Rep. Cole is) a man who is making sure tomorrow is better than today - a statesman, a peacemaker, and the first recipient of the Harland C. Stonecipher public service award," Mr. Turpin said. "He's also a proud Chickasaw and that's important in this town, in this state and in this country."

Rep. Cole said the award was a great honor, especially in light of the service Mr. Stonecipher provided during his lifetime.

"Harland, as he always did, continues to touch lives, Rep. Cole said.



Former Oklahoma attorney general Mike Turpin, left, presents U.S. Rep. Tom Cole with the Harland C. Stonecipher award for Public Service Nov. 9 at the East Central University Chickasaw Business and Conference Center in Ada, Okla.

"In the process of doing something that would have seemed unimaginable earlier in his life, how much opportunity did he create for other people? How many other people did he serve? How many thousands of people achieved financial security and got a stake in the system that never had a chance? How much better is off Ada, Oklahoma today because they built up on that hillside, and the hundreds of people that they employed and the tens of thousands of people across every state in the country that it serves?"

Rep. Cole is serving his seventh term in the U.S. House of

Robotics teams take honors



The Chickasaw Nation's First Tech Challenge Robotics league team, the Y-Not Robots, took first place at the season's first qualifier in Shawnee, Okla., on Nov. 12. Back row, Chickasaw student and team captain Jacob Nichols. Middle row from left, Saije Hawkins, Landon Swopes (Chickasaw), Hudson Little and Colton Wilson (Chickasaw). Front row from left, Riley Flanagan, Brian Cunningham, Lily Hedges and Kiersten Hazard.



The Chickasaw Nation's First Tech Challenge Robotics league team, Y-Not Squared, partnered with the Y-Not Robots to take first place at the season's first qualifier in Shawnee, Okla., on Nov. 12. Back row from left, Austin Palmer (Chickasaw), Kervon James and Ethan Webb. Middle row from left, Gabrielle Padilla (Chickasaw), Maggi Dansby, Kaleigh Russell (co-captain), and Aaron Cable. Front row from left, Landon Estes, Jarrod Erwin (captain), Justin Neill and Tvli Birdshead (Chickasaw).

Photo provided by STM staff

Apply now for higher ed grants

Chickasaw students can now apply for higher education grants and scholarships for the 2017 spring term.

Applicants must complete a Programs, Grants and Scholarship Application and provide an official high school or college transcript and schedule of classes.

The deadline for submitting applications is Feb. 1, 2017.

Applications can be completed online at www.chickasaw.net/highered.

For more information, grants and scholarships offered and information about other opportunities, contact Education Services at (580) 421-7711 or visit online.

Chickasaw elder presents 'Chickasaw Proud' to Texas junior high students

A Chickasaw elder recently delivered a Chickasaw history lesson to a group of Texas junior high school students.

Ninety-three year-old Louise Haddock presented information on the Chickasaw Nation to a class of seventh-graders at Humble (TX) Christian High School. Mrs. Haddock was invited to speak by teacher Georgia Lapp.

Mrs. Haddock's lecture was "Chickasaw Proud."

She passed around photos of her mother Winnie Neighbors Blocker, her great aunt Elizabeth Hardin and her grandfather, William K. Neighbors. She also shared photos of Gov. Bill Anoatubby and his family.

Mrs. Haddock shared maps, brochures and copies of the *Chickasaw Times*. A coin collec-

tion, medicine pouch, dream-catcher, a doll in Native dress and hand-woven rugs were also featured.

The benefits of being a Chickasaw citizen were part of the presentation. Mrs. Haddock discussed Chickasaw health care, education scholarships and grants and elder care.

Mrs. Haddock gave each of the students small gifts of dream-catchers, Indian jewelry, cards and symbols for them to take home.

She received a number of thank you notes from the students which offered "praise enough to fill this ninety-three year-old heart with joy!"

"It is indeed a privilege to be a representative of our Chickasaw culture," Mrs. Haddock said.

Kids celebrate Youth Heritage Day



Shaun Stick focuses on her target at Youth Heritage Day Nov. 2-3 at the Chickasaw Cultural Center.

SULPHUR, Okla. - More than 350 students celebrated Chickasaw Nation Youth Heritage day Nov. 2-3 at the Chickasaw Cultural Center in Sulphur.

Students from Atoka, Tishomingo and Kingston, Oklahoma

came together as part of Native American Heritage Month. The students were in grades 5-8. They enjoyed games and activities based on Chickasaw culture.

Archery, stickball, chunky and marbles youth activities

were available for the students in the traditional village.

Attendees also participated in stomp dances with the Chickasaw Nation Dance Troupe.

Yarn basket weaving demonstrations were taught by Chickasaw Princess, Julie Underwood.

"I think it's important they get to experience everything," Miss Underwood said. "Whether it's traditional games, dances or crafts that show them the unique way we make our baskets. I think it's important for every child to learn and experience Chickasaw culture."

The event was also an opportunity for many of the students to visit the Chickasaw Cultural Center for the first time.

CONTRIBUTED BY Carmen Carter, Public Affairs.

It is a privilege and an honor to serve as chairperson of your legislature

Chukma and greetings from David Woerz, Chairperson and Seat 1, Pickens District. Well, Fiscal Year 2017 has started off in grand style for me. On October 21, I was elected Chairperson of the Chickasaw Tribal Legislature. It is a huge honor and privilege to serve as Chairperson and also a tremendous responsibility. I thank the Legislators for their vote of confidence and I pledge my best efforts to fulfill those responsibilities to the best of my abilities.



DAVID WOERZ
Chairman,
Chickasaw
Tribal
Legislature

We had an interesting time electing this year's Secretary. Two Legislators were nominated and the vote was a tie, one Legislator being absent from the Session. We tried three different times to elect one of them but the vote was still tied. This is the first time in history that the Legislature has been tied on an election of officers.

We consulted the Legislative Special Rules and Robert's Rules of Order and decided to flip a coin which is allowed under Robert's Rules. Congratulations to Legislator Toby Perkins for winning the election. I look forward to Toby's capable assistance during 2017.

This month, the Legislature will be considering language to add to the Chickasaw Nation Code to describe the process as a Special Rule of the Legislature.

We Legislators certainly plan to keep traveling to as many community groups as we have been. In fact, we hope to add to the list of destinations this year. We understand the importance of keeping lines of communication open between ourselves and you, Chickasaw citizens. And it's very important to us to meet as many citizens as we can. It helps us to put a face with a name, so to speak, and to keep us ever mindful of why we serve. We hope to meet you in one of those meetings.

Thank you for your continued support and confidence. We are here for you. Please contact us through the addresses and phone numbers listed in this and every issue of the Chickasaw Times.

You can also contact us at (580) 436-1460 to obtain our addresses and phone numbers.

David Woerz
Chairperson and Seat 1, Pickens District

Fort Washita one of many sites of significance to Five Civilized Tribes

Chukma! I travel from time to time, visiting historic Chickasaw sites in Oklahoma and in the South. I like to educate myself and stand where our forefathers once stood. We are in very different, faster-paced times, but we should always remember where we came from. Recently, I visited Fort Washita located near Durant, Okla. Growing up in Oklahoma, I have always heard of it, but I had never visited it. I was not aware of its significance to our tribe.

It was built in 1842 in the Choctaw Nation, Indian Territory. Chickasaws and Choctaws both inhabited this area, but the Chickasaws were on the western boundary. Many of the Indian tribes to our west posed a threat to both tribes, so we reached out to the federal government requesting their assistance in fending off the intruders.

The fort remained open with U.S. troops stationed there until 1861 when Confederate troops from Texas occupied it and used it as a headquarters during the remainder of the Civil War. The fort was decommissioned by the War Department in 1870 and turned over to the Department of the Interior, which controlled tribal lands. In the late 1800s, under the Dawes

Commission, Charlie and Abigail Colbert, a prominent Chickasaw family, received Fort Washita as their Indian land allotment. The Oklahoma Historical Society acquired it in 1962. Fort Washita is on the National Register of Historic Places and it is designated as a National Historical Landmark.

We offer many ways for you to learn about our history through our website Chickasaw.net and through Chickasaw.tv.

I pray everyone had a nice Thanksgiving and will have an equally nice Christmas season.

I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit. ~Romans 15:13



Many signs of progress throughout 2016, and more to come in 2017

Chokma! Greetings from the Tishomingo District! As we come to the close of another year, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

The year 2016 brought many exciting developments and progress for the Chickasaw Nation and our citizens.

The year was full of progressive developments in the Chickasaw Nation, including opening new facilities which help provide programs and services to our citizens.

Grand openings this year included the Duncan Food Distribution Center and WinStar Convention Center. Still other projects are close to being completed in the new year, including the Sulphur Youth Club and Tishomingo Information Center. Also, citizens in Oklahoma City witnessed groundbreaking for both a Community Center and a Senior Center this past year.

While we are making great strides on new facilities, we are also investing in preserving our language, culture and art.

Soon, the Rosetta Stone language program will be available for Chickasaws around the world and our partnerships to support our Chickasaw students continue to grow in universities across the state and nation.

Our art, culture and heritage are celebrated and shared each day by Chickasaw Cultural Center visitors and at successful events such as the Artesian Arts Festival and Southeastern Arts Show and Market.

Our diversified business ventures continue to thrive through careful strategy and development.

The Chickasaw Nation's efforts in tourism, healthcare, technology, manufacturing, and other sectors continue to grow.

Success at these ventures helps ensure our citizens can depend on the Chickasaw Nation to continue to provide vital services; including health care, housing, education programs designed for all citizens – from infants to elders. Because we all work toward a common goal – to enhance the lives of all Chickasaws.

Again, I hope you and your family have a joyous Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

As always, thank you for allowing me to serve as your representative on the Chickasaw legislature.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,
Tim Colbert
Tim.Colbert@chickasaw.net
580-421-7242



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Businesses achieve solid start to new fiscal year

FINANCIAL REPORT

The Tribal Government caption includes the Tribe's general fund and BIA trust funds. The Chickasaw Businesses include all of the businesses and operations of the Department of Commerce. Not included in the financial statements are federally or state funded programs and/or grants and the financial statements of Bank 2 and Chickasaw Nation Industries, Inc.

The growing needs of the businesses are taken into account when determining the transfers from the businesses to the general fund. It is vital to the long range mission of the Chickasaw Nation that the businesses continue to grow and diversify.

Revenues of Tribal Government, other than the transfer from businesses, include motor fuel settlement funds and investment income. Chickasaw Business revenues include gaming revenues net of prizes and other sales revenues from convenience stores, travel plazas, tobacco stores, other tribal businesses as well as rental and investment income.

Tribal expenditures are classified by function. General government includes the maintenance and operations of tribal property, the Chickasaw Times and Governor's and Lt. Governor's offices. Expenditures for education include education scholarships as well as the tribe's division of education. Health expenditures include eye glasses, hearing aids, prescription drugs, wellness center, community health clinics, catastrophic medical assistance and other similar programs not covered by federal programs or grants.

The businesses' expenditures are classified as to expenses associated with gaming operation of the tribe and the other businesses of the tribe.

Executive Summary of the Financial Statements of the period ending October 31, 2016

Tribal Government

Revenues and transfers from the businesses for operations and fixed assets totaled \$16.3 million for the month and year-to-date. Expenditures were \$11.4 million for the month and year-to-date.

Chickasaw Businesses

Revenue net of gaming prizes through October totaled \$113.6 million. Net income before the transfers to the Tribal Government was \$25.5 million year-to-date. After transfers to the Tribal Government for capital projects and tribal program operations the net income was \$10.3 million year-to-date. The net income includes all revenue, including amounts reserved for business growth and expansion.

Statement of Net Assets

At October 31, 2016, the Tribal Government funds had \$387 million in cash and investments. Of this amount, \$23.4 million is in the BIA Trust funds. This total does not include any federal program funds.

The businesses had \$252.1 million in cash and investments which is reserved for

accounts payable and business operations.

As of October 31, 2016, tribal operations, excluding federal program funding, had net assets of \$2.24 billion.

Chickasaw Nation
Tribal Operations
Statement of Revenues and Expenditures
For the One Month Ended October 31, 2016

	Tribal Government	Chickasaw Businesses	Total
Revenues	\$ 1,111,554	113,634,485	114,746,039
Transfers From Businesses To Tribal Government	15,189,865	(15,189,865)	-
Total Funds Available	16,301,420	98,444,620	114,746,039
Expenditures			
General Government	590,560	-	590,560
Legislature	284,774	-	284,774
Judiciary	102,350	-	102,350
Education	1,648,348	-	1,648,348
Heritage Preservation	2,270,044	-	2,270,044
Health	1,086,280	-	1,086,280
Youth Services	317,625	-	317,625
Family Services	1,414,016	-	1,414,016
Nutrition Programs	593,788	-	593,788
Regulatory	1,117,650	-	1,117,650
Assistance Programs	1,940,625	-	1,940,625
Gaming Expense	-	65,342,430	65,342,430
Other Businesses' Expense	-	22,764,776	22,764,776
Total Expenditures	11,366,059	88,107,206	99,473,265
Increase In Net Assets	4,935,360	10,337,414	15,272,774
Beginning Net Assets	871,188,746	1,355,004,419	2,226,193,164
Ending Net Assets	\$ 876,124,106	1,365,341,832	2,241,465,938

Chickasaw Nation
Tribal Operations
Statement of Net Assets
October 31, 2016

	Tribal Government	Chickasaw Businesses	Total
Cash And Investments	\$ 387,019,352	252,085,726	639,105,078
Receivables	10,020,631	126,647,248	136,667,879
Inventory	18,700	7,341,779	7,360,479
Prepaid Expenses	-	23,586,132	23,586,132
Other Assets	-	1,078,139	1,078,139
Fixed Assets	482,791,371	1,100,495,241	1,583,286,612
Less Payables	(3,725,948)	(145,892,432)	(149,618,380)
Net Assets	\$ 876,124,106	1,365,341,832	2,241,465,938

As Indian citizens, it is our duty to stay informed as U.S administration changes

Hello Everybody,
As we exit the election season and enter the holiday season, I hope you and yours are doing well.
So, Donald Trump won the election for president. I did not expect that, but I understand it.
So many middle and lower class voters felt disenfranchised by our government that they wanted something, anything, different. Middle and lower class white people in this country felt like a minority, forgotten by government.



KATIE CASE
Chickasaw Tribal Legislature

We, as Native Americans, really are a minority, and Donald Trump's past actions and comments do not indicate that as president he will be supportive of Native American enterprises, specifically casinos.
According to *The Washington Post*, Donald Trump spent in excess of \$1 million on a 1990's ad campaign in upper New York linking Indian gaming to organized crime, broken families, bankruptcies and violence.
At the same time, he was working to achieve an agreement with a California tribe to manage their casino efforts.
In New York, Indian casinos were in competition with his casino and in California, an Indian casino was an opportunity for Trump to make money.

Trump attacked Indian gaming in New York and Connecticut with racially charged language, negative ads and a lawsuit in the case of the Paucatuck tribe of Connecticut. With the Paucatucks, Trump achieved a pact to finance their effort to become federally recognized, a requirement to have a casino, in exchange for a management fee based on the tribe's future casino revenues.

When the Paucatucks' effort to become federally recognized resulted in the BIA concluding that the Paucatuck tribe was part of the Eastern Pequots, who were also seeking federal recognition and who had signed with a different developer, there was a federal ruling that required the combined leadership of both tribes to choose between Trump and the other developer.

Trump's prior derogatory statements about Indians and his actions against, in no small part, resulted in a vote against him. He sued and the case was settled out of court.

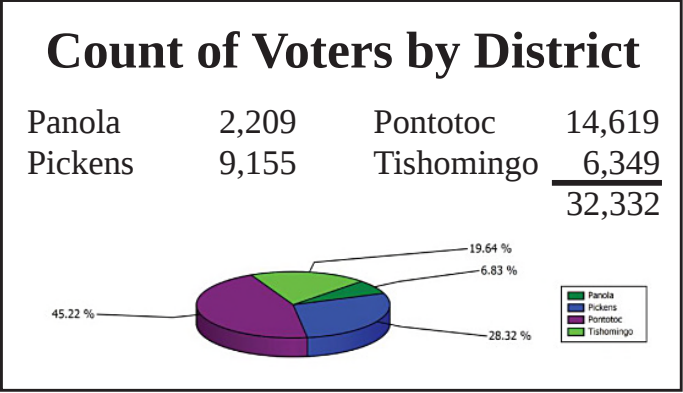
I share this bit of Trump's history of interactions with Indian people and tribes to alert you that our commitment to and diligence in protecting tribal sovereignty must be unwavering.

As President Andrew Jackson's relentless pursuit of removal threatened our very existence, President Trump could choose to pursue policies and actions to threaten our sovereignty and pursuit of economic independence.

Individually we must stay informed and stay in contact with our state and federally elected officials. Phone calls and letters are still effective means of communicating our concerns to the senators, congressmen and congresswomen representing us.

We are strong when we speak and act together.
If you need me, I can be reached at (580) 421-4903.

Here's wishing you and yours a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!
Respectfully,
Katie



Chickasaw events offer opportunities to meet lots of Chickasaw citizens

December is here and 2016 is about over. Before we charge into 2017, I have a few more events from this year to share with everyone!

At the 2016 Chickasaw Festival I met Ms. Landry Kelly. She is an artist, full time school teacher and Chickasaw! Landry and her parents (Patrick and CeAnn) live in Houston. Grandmother, Margie Testerman lives in Cushing, Oklahoma and her roots travel back to Mr. Charlie and Kathryn Perry Sheco.



BETH ALEXANDER
Chickasaw Tribal Legislature

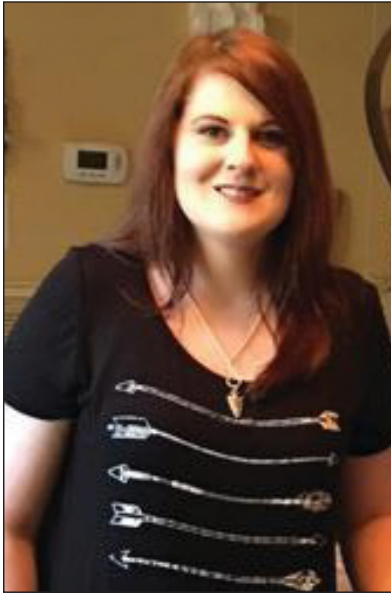
Landry holds a BA and MA in Art Education from Mary Hardin Baylor and Boston University. When not teaching, Landry creates painted sculptures of various animals. Her most recent creations are of painted horse sculptures. They come in all colors and sizes. Two from her collection are on display and reside at the Chickasaw Art and Humanities Gallery. To learn more about her equine herd or to own a horse of your own, you may contact Landry at: thepaintedtrail@gmail.com

Recently, we had dress up day at our site. Here is a group shot of the elders that "haunt" the Panola Senior Center. We have an active bunch and they will be a force to be reckoned with at the annual Christmas dinner! Hope to see many of you there!

One last thought to share: prayers of comfort and encouragement to the families of loved ones that passed this year and promoted on to a higher reward, we will miss you! J.C. Poe, Marie Beck, Leon Greenwood, Flora Mead, Kerry Swindell...these are just a few that departed since last month.

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil; for Thou art with me... Psalms23:4

Beth Alexander
(580) 272-7850



Many great holiday events throughout the Chickasaw Nation this month

Chokma, chinchokma, Hello, how are you?
What an exciting time of year to be a part of the Chickasaw Nation! Even though the weather outside is still warm and even balmy, at times, Christmas is almost here. There are so many exciting things to do and see this month. I hope those of you who can, will take advantage of the opportunities available to you and your family to participate in the many holiday activities.



NANCY ELLIOTT
Chickasaw Tribal Legislature

Christmas at the Museums and the Progressive Dinner is always a crowd favorite and will occur on December 10th this year. It will begin at the Chickasaw Council House Museum in Tishomingo. There are always exciting things going on at the Chickasaw Cultural Center, but it really comes alive during the holidays. This year a Holiday Art Market and Show will take place on December 17 at the Cultural Center. This will be a great time to do some of your holiday shopping. The Winter Celebration will take place on December 21 with a visit from Santa, Christmas cookies, hot chocolate, and lots more. There are Christmas Celebrations for the children in various locations, so check the calendar to find one close to you.

The Elders Christmas Party will be at the Ada Agri-plex on December 16. This is always a favorite time for food and fellowship as well as another opportunity to get our Christmas shopping done at the Senior Craft Booths. Jae L. Stilwell and the Crossover Band at the McSwain Theatre in Ada will host the Christmas Show on December 17 and the New Year's Eve Show on December 31. They can always be counted on for good music and lots of fun!

If you want a "Classic Christmas," check out the special Christmas activities at the Artesian Hotel in Sulphur. Festivities began November 26 and continue until December 26. There will be Breakfast with Santa, live reindeer, gingerbread house decorating classes, carolers, fireside readings from Mrs. Claus, and carriage rides and lots more. Reservations will be required, so check with the staff at the Artesian for more information.

As you can see from this list, we love Christmas in the Chickasaw Nation! I hope you will have an opportunity to participate in the activities near you. For those of you living outside the Chickasaw Nation, I hope you can feel the love that we have for you as part of our Chickasaw family. I hope you all have a Very Merry Christmas, and please let me know if I can help you in any way!

Chipisala cho anowa, Until I see you again!
Nancy
Pontotoc District Seat 2
580-399-4374
Nancy.Elliott@Chickasaw.net

HOF Nominations accepted through Dec. 9

The Chickasaw Nation is currently accepting nominations for the Chickasaw Nation Hall of Fame. Nominations must be received by the Chickasaw Nation Department of Culture and Humanities by **5 p.m., Friday, Dec. 9.**

Nominees both living and deceased are eligible for this prestigious honor. Nominees must have distinguished themselves in their business, profession, craft or vocation, thereby bringing honor to the Chickasaw Nation, impacting fellow Chickasaw citizens or the community on a local or national level.

Nominees must be a citizen of the Chickasaw Nation or be eligible to become a citizen of the Chickasaw Nation. Nominees are not required to live in Oklahoma.

New inductees are honored with a plaque in the Chickasaw Nation Honor Garden. It is a beautiful and serene monument dedicated to individuals inducted into the Chickasaw Nation Hall of Fame. Located on the Chickasaw Cultural Center campus in Sulphur, Okla., the Chickasaw Nation Honor Garden is an original design inspired by the four directions and incorporating spiral symbols indicative of traditional Chickasaw culture.

Nomination forms are available at www.chickasaw.net/hof. For more information, contact Brielle Helm at (580) 436-2603 or brielle.helm@chickasaw.net.

2017 Programs & Services Directories now available



The 2017 Programs and Services Directories are now available for download at www.Chickasaw.net/Services. The directories contain information about the many tribal programs and services available to Chickasaw citizens.

The Chickasaw Programs and Services Apps are also available for Apple and android devices. The apps provide fast and easy access to Chickasaw Nation Programs and Services information while you are on the go.

2015-2016 Tribal Legislature

Following is a list of the Chickasaw Nation Tribal Legislators including their address and phone numbers. If you have any questions or need any information, please contact the legislator in your area.

Pontotoc District
Seat #

1. Toby Perkins
15810 CR 1569
Ada, OK 74820
(580) 399-2606
Toby.Perkins@chickasaw.net
2. Nancy Elliott
620 Ann
Ada, OK 74820
(580) 399-4374
Nancy.Elliott@chickasaw.net
3. Katie Case
P.O. Box 145
Stonewall, OK 74871
(580) 272-8385
Katie.Case@chickasaw.net
4. Dean McManus
5980 CR 3430
Ada, OK 74820
(580) 235-2651
Dean.McManus@chickasaw.net
5. Lisa J. Billy
19259 150th Street
Lindsay, OK 73052

Pickens District
Seat #

1. David Woerz
P.O. Box 669
Ardmore, OK 73402
(580) 235-3240
David.Woerz@chickasaw.net
2. Connie Barker
509 SW 7th Ave.
Marietta, OK 73448
(580) 272-4175
Connie.Barker@chickasaw.net
3. Linda Briggs
P.O. Box 241
Marietta, OK 73448
(580) 272-7268
Linda.Briggs@chickasaw.net
4. Shana Tate Hammond
801 North Mississippi
Ada, Oklahoma, 74820
(580) 235-1438
Shana.Hammond@chickasaw.net

Tishomingo District
Seat #

1. Scott Wood
204 East Main Street
Tishomingo, OK 73460
(580) 221-1430
Scott.Wood@chickasaw.net
2. Tim Colbert
P.O. Box 773
Sulphur, OK 73086
(580) 421-7242
Tim.Colbert@chickasaw.net
3. Steven Woods
5071 Gray's Road
Davis, OK 73030
(580) 272-7270
Steve.Woods@chickasaw.net

Panola District
Seat #

1. Beth Alexander
PO Box 246
Achille, OK 74720
(580) 272-7850
beth.alexander@chickasaw.net
bethalexander22@hotmail.com

Get involved with your community council and connect to your tribe!

Greetings from the Tishomingo District! It is such a joyous time of year as celebrate Christmas. I want to wish you all my heart felt blessings this Christmas season. I pray that you all may have the wonderful celebrations of love and fellowship that this time of year brings to you, your family and friends. I am truly blessed to be able to spend this time with my loved ones as we celebrate a wonderful time this Christmas. I hope you all join me in making a trip to the Chickasaw Cultural Center to see the magnificent display of lights. It will surely make you smile and bring warmth to your heart.

Since last I have written, I have been attending several of our community council meetings in other states. I have truly been impressed by how much they have grown. As always the fellowship was so much fun. I enjoyed meeting everyone who attended. I have been to Sacramento, California, Oklahoma City, Tulsa and San Antonio, Texas, meetings. At the meetings they get updates on happenings at the Chickasaw Nation as well as learn some Chickasaw crafts. At one place we learned to make clay pinch pots. That's just one example of the many different cultural arts I have experienced at the community council

meetings. I would like to encourage all Chickasaws to attend their local community councils. It is a very good way to keep in touch with our Tribe and also to give input into services and programs you think would be beneficial. Located in the Chickasaw Times you will find a list of the Community Councils and their meeting dates and times. This is a good time to meet your Chickasaw legislators as well as for them to meet you. Community council meetings are a great way to fellowship, and learn something new too.

Looking back to November for a bit, it was such a great time of the year. The weather was beautiful and the tree foliage with its bright colors reminded us to get ready for the winter. November was also the month that was set aside as Native American month and many schools and organizations celebrated it. Veterans Day was also November 11 to honor our many veterans. My father, Jerry Woods, served 20 years in the U.S. Air Force during the Vietnam and Korean wars. He was also on the historic First Intercontinental Titan Missile crew at Little Rock Air Force Base during the cold war with Russia. This happened when I was a child growing up in Arkansas. I also had several Chickasaw uncles that served in World War II, Vietnam and Korean wars. I have always been so proud of them and all of our veterans. This makes me so thankful that we are establishing a building on the Chickasaw Medical facility grounds in Ada and a program for their needs. Also making me take a moment to remember to give thanks for all the blessings I have had throughout the year during Thanksgiving. I was truly thankful!

Now that the elections have come and gone and perhaps a new era is getting ready to start January, 2017. We must set aside our differences and pray for our leaders to be able to solve the difficult tasks that lay ahead.

I, also, ask for your prayers as we pause and think about all of our blessings and plan for family gatherings during the holidays. As Chickasaws, we have a lot to be thankful for this year. The tribe is continuing to progress as stated by Governor Anoatubby during our annual meeting. Many of our services to the Chickasaw citizens in and out of our service area have expanded as we continue to grow.

I am so proud to be a part of the Chickasaw Nation because we work together to take care of the needs of our people.

I would like to close with this Christmas message: Sending you all Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Hoping the real gifts of Christmas are yours. The joyful music and sparkling lights, the heartwarming laughter of children, the cozy pleasures of home, the very special times that happen when family and friends come together...may these gifts of Christmas bring you happy moments and happy memories. I pray many blessings to each and everyone in the New Year. Hope to see you at the community meetings!

Steven Woods
Tishomingo District



Chickasaw Nation judicial branch is always ready to serve citizens

Chokma! What an exciting month November was for the Judicial Branch. I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving. December is upon us and that means Christmas will soon be here and families will be gathering for the holidays and for the upcoming New Year 2017. I want to share information that will

be helpful to you on we provide through ridical department in December article. Judicial Department prised of a District Peacemaking Court Supreme Court. The Court hears cases ing adoption, guard-civil, divorce, and pro-orders, name change, nile, Foreign Service, nal, paternity and support. Many times want to file a probate court system and we handle probate issues. ma Indian Legal Ser-a wonderful organiza-can help answer many questions. To contact call: (405) 943-6457 or toll free (in state only) 1-800-658-1497.



CHERI BELLEFEUILLE-GORDON
Chief Justice Supreme Court

- DISTRICT COURT**
- The Chickasaw Nation District Court provides a unique service by offering the assistance of Court Advocates for all matters properly before the Chickasaw Nation District Court.
- In any action, one party must be Native American.
- A non-Indian, either by the act of filing an action or by written consent becomes subject to the jurisdiction of the Chickasaw Nation District Court.
- AN ADVOCATE WILL NOT:**
1. Provide legal advice.
 2. Represent any party.
 3. Go to court with any party.
- AN ADVOCATE WILL:**
1. Assist in preparing all papers for the Court filing.
 2. Provide directions on service of the papers.
 3. Provide information on presenting evidence to state your case before the Court.
 4. Prepare orders or final decrees necessary to finalize the matter.

- It is the responsibility of the party to the action to:**
1. Make an appointment to meet with an advocate;
 2. Provide truthful and complete information; and
 3. Present their case to the judge.

The party to the action will also need to meet with the Advocate after an order is issued to assist with any follow-up paperwork.

The Chickasaw Nation court advocates assisted a total of 92 citizens in the month of October. Deana Hartley Kelso is available at the Judicial Department, 821 North Mississippi, Ada, Oklahoma. Advocate Michael Smith is available for appointments in Ada, Purcell and Ardmore offices. The court advocate services are available at no cost to the citizens. The advocates will prepare the necessary paperwork for the citizen; however, the advocates do not represent you in court. They are available to facilitate the court process and explain to you what to expect if you appear in court.

If you are interested in filing an action in our court system, please contact the District Court Clerk's Office at (580) 235-0279. The deputies will schedule an appointment with the court advocates for you upon request. You can always access the Chickasaw Nation Code at Chickasaw.net and then go to the Judicial Department webpage; the link to the Code is there for you to view the current laws of the Chickasaw Nation.

- District News: October 2016 Court Statistics**
- 34 New court cases filed
 - 201 Cases heard in court
 - 92 Citizens were assisted by the court advocates

SUPREME COURT

Chief Justice Cheri Bellefeuille-Gordon and Justice Mark H. Colbert and Justice Linda English Weeks attended the Carnival Trick or Treat on October, 31, 2016, the children were all dressed as their favorite character and we passed out a bag of candy for each person.

Chief Justice Cheri Bellefeuille-Gordon attended the Intertribal Day of Prayer at the Chickasaw Community Center, Ardmore on November 5, 2016.

Justice Linda English Weeks and District Judge Dustin Rowe attended the 18th Annual D.C. Indian Law Conference. The conference was in Washington, D.C., November 3-6, 2016. Justice Weeks reported it was a beautiful time to see our nation's capital. The foliage was fantastic and as always there is so much excitement on Capitol Hill.

Justice Weeks said, "The conference agenda had several interesting and informative topics, but the Luncheon keynote speaker was the highlight for me. Hillary Tompkins, Solicitor, U.S. Department of Interior spoke about her time at the Interior. The first task assigned to her was to settle Cobell. There was so much progress made in Indian Country during President Obama's administration. Special thanks to the Secretary of the Interior, Sally Jewell and Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Kevin Washburn for their service at Interior."

The Chickasaw Nation Bar Association conducted its Annual Winter Continuing Legal Education Seminar on December 2, 2016 at the fabulous RiverWind Casino in Norman, Oklahoma. There were over 125 in attendance from different legal professions across

the state. The attendees heard lectures on a variety of topics all of which were accredited by the Oklahoma Bar Association.

Again, it is my pleasure to report on a busy and successful month in the Judicial Department. As always, thank you for allowing me to serve as your Chief Justice. It is a privilege and an honor to serve you. CHIPISALA' CHO ANOWA means "Until I see you again," Cheri Bellefeuille-Gordon. Please contact me, I would love to hear from you (580) 235-0281 or cheri.bellefeuille-gordon@chickasaw.net.

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Citizen utilizes several tribal programs to complete degree



It was a family celebration when James Crossley finished his degree at Oklahoma Christian University in August 2016. From left are Kale Crossley, son; Lee Crossley, father; James Crossley; his wife, Sommer; his mother, Nina; and son Trey Crossley.

EDMOND, Okla. – Chickasaw citizen James Crossley recently received his bachelor's degree in Sports Wellness and Recreation Management from Oklahoma Christian University.

Mr. Crossley works for Chickasaw Nation Nutrition Services. He is in charge of the food distribution program in the Purcell office and calls his work "a blessing from God."

"I love helping and serving the Chickasaw people and members of other tribes as well," he said. "The elders are a blessing to me."

Mr. Crossley is best known as a blue-chip baseball pitcher for Rose State College, Oklahoma City University and Oklahoma Christian University in the 1980s-90s. In 1991, he led Oklahoma City University to the NAIA College World Series.

In 1995, the New York Mets and Cincinnati Reds pursued him to sign minor league contracts but he chose to become a pitching coach at Oklahoma Christian College.

In 1993, a baseball scholarship took him to Oklahoma Christian University. He was named All-District and All-Conference. That year, the university racked up the most victories in its history. In 1994, Mr. Crossley became a pitching coach at Oklahoma Christian but was nine hours short of his degree.

In 2010, he returned to school at Victory Bible College in Tulsa, earning a degree in ministry.

Since earning the degree, he has established Nations United, a ministry aimed at Native Americans. Lisa Johnson Billy, recently elected to the Chickasaw Legislature after a 12-year stint serving in the Oklahoma House of Representatives, speaks at Nations United gatherings. Her husband, Phillip Billy, director of veteran services for the Chickasaw Nation, performs in the praise band.

With success at Victory Bible College, Mr. Crossley decided to re-enter Oklahoma Christian and complete the nine hours to earn his degree.

"The Chickasaw Nation is such a blessing in my life," he said. "They helped me with tuition, bought all of my books and, as an employee, I was able to use a loan from my 401(k) to complete the nine hours."

Kobe Harrison projects tops at State Fair



A Chickasaw boy entered several top-rated projects at the recent Oklahoma State Fair.

Kobe Harrison is a seventh-grader at Bearden Elementary School, Okemah, Okla. He earned first-place awards on four projects: a standing bow rack, flower families, leaf types and the flight path of a model rocket.

Kobe is an active 4H member. He is the son of Kelly Harrison, and the grandson of William and Carol Harrison.

Chickasha church offers free gifts

An Indian church in Chickasha, Okla., will be distributing free Christmas gifts to youngsters and teenagers this holiday season.

The Fellowship of the American Indian Church in Chickasha will be giving out the gifts Dec. 18. No paperwork, registration or any other process is required.

Gifts will be distributed Dec. 18 following the church's 10 a.m. brunch and 11 a.m. church service. Those in attendance will receive gift bags of age-appropriate gifts.

Gifts will be distributed to children from infant through teen years.

The church is at 1217 W. Frisco Street in Chickasha. The church phone number is (405) 448-5144.

BIRTHS

Hudson Cruz Askins was born at 11:05 p.m., September 1, 2016 at Mercy Hospital, Oklahoma City. He weighed 7 lbs., 11 oz., and measured 19 and 3/4 inches at birth. He is the son of Jason and Michelle Askins of Oklahoma City. His maternal grandparents are



Ella Francis Phos

Parents Sopheaktra and Amanda Phos are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter, Ella Francis Phos. She was born October 10, 2016 at 5:45 p.m. in Pomona, California. She weighed 7 lbs., 9 oz. and measured 19 inches at birth.



Brynlee Harper Lawhon

BIRTHDAYS



Chaio Christian Johnson

Chaio Christian Johnson turned two years old Oct. 15, 2016 and celebrated with a Chipmunks theme party at Lazer Zone in Ada, Okla. Chaio thanks all his family and friends who helped him celebrate his second birthday. Chaio and his guests enjoyed bumper bowling, pizza and snacks. The time we all put into our loved ones are the moments we must cherish because they can never be replaced! He is the son of Chasity Ott-Brokeshoulder and the grandson of Cynthia and the Late Dewayne Ott. He is the great-grandson of

Mrs. Byrd celebrates 90th birthday in Stonewall, Okla.



Mary Jo Richardson Byrd

Mary Jo Richardson Byrd, of Stonewall, Okla. (Owl Creek), celebrated her 90th birthday September 28 with family and friends. In attendance were Jackie and Genevia Byrd, Patricia Jo Byrd, LaVonna Chambers, John West, Tamra West, Sarah and Corey Logon, CJ Logon, Katie Logon, Cole Logon, nephew Larry Brownen, of Madill, Okla., Joy Ward, of Fittstown, Okla., Pastor Charles and Zelma Tennison, of Pickett, Okla., and Von and Mary Helen Long, of Coalgate, Okla. It was a fun day. Thanks to my family and friends!

Gary Harris and Misty Howard. His paternal grandparents are Carrell and Marty Askins. He has three great grandmothers, Pamela Peiffer, Wanda Harris, and Colden Duncan. He also has two uncles, Michael Harris and Raymond Askins.

Her maternal grandparents are Robert and Mary Marshall and Christine Lopez, of Pomona. Ella has six maternal great-grandparents, Margie Marshall, Frank and Irene Padilla, Miguel and Teresa Flores, all of Pomona, and Bill Kovacevich, of Oceanside, California. She is the great-great-granddaughter of Dorothy Marshall, of Prescott Valley, Arizona. Her paternal grandparents are Vorleak Phos, of Pomona and Dina In, Lowell, Maine. Ella is the great-great-great-granddaughter of John Billie, an original enrollee listed on the Dawes role.

Brynlee Harper Lawhon was born Oct. 3, 2016 at 11:35 p.m. She is the first-born child of Ayrial and Jesse Lawhon and the first great-grandchild of Kenneth Hensley.

Artie Cooper (former secretary of the Chickasaw Nation Senior Site) and the late Albert Spencer Cooper, and the late Mr. and Mrs. Francis and Willie Ott. Chaio is enrolled with the Chickasaw Nation and also a descendent of Choctaw, Creek, Seminole and Mississippi Choctaw heritage. He attends the Toddler III class and Nursery at “Okchamali” Blue Baptist Church and has learned about sharing and being kind to others. He greets with “Chukma” during introduction and a hand shake.

Chaio enjoys driving his car, riding his bike and playing basketball, softball, baseball, football and stickball. He enjoys practicing with musical instruments of his “Pukni’s” piano, his guitar and drum set. This two-year old curly haired native boy loves all the movies featuring the Chipmunks! Chaio is a featured fan in the Chickasaw Festival Gallery 2016. He always supports his uncle Bubba, aunts and cousin Spencer when they play sports by cheering in the stands or standing at the fence!

“Our Precious Chaio we send a Birthday Prayer,that you may know Gods love with the unfolding of each year, And that you will come to know God’s purpose and HIS plan, As you walk with God through this life... Always know babyson HE will forever Hold your hand”

Brinleigh Spruell celebrates first Halloween



Brinleigh Aurora Spruell

Little Brinleigh Aurora Spruell celebrated her first Halloween this year. Brinleigh was born April 20, 2016 in Talihina, Okla. Her parents are Jerris and Kelly Spruell. Brinleigh is a direct descendant of Sugar Mary (Johnson) Jack and Walter Jack, both Chickasaw original enrollees. Brinleigh’s father is of Cherokee and Choctaw descent. Brinleigh has two brothers, Lane and Jon Spruell. She lives in Wilburton, Okla., with her family. Isn’t she adorable?!

Chickasaw girl tops in State Fair photos



Raylee McGlocklin

A Chickasaw girl recently received “Best of Show” for her photography at the Oklahoma State Fair. Raylee McGlocklin, 13, received “Best of Show” in the open class youth division photo contest. Raylee’s winning entry was of a Majestic Box Turtle. Raylee has spent many hours honing her craft. At age nine, she won the youth division People’s Choice award at the Arbuckle-Simpson Nature Festival competition. The following year she was Photo Contest Champion. She earned a number of photo awards at this year’s State Fair, including her “Best of Show.” Raylee is active in 4H and has recently earned the 4H medal in photography. She is the 4H reporter at Tishomingo (OK) Middle School. Raylee also enjoys hunting, kayaking, fishing, camping, riding horses and just about anything outdoors. She has recently bagged a wild turkey and an 11-point buck. She is the current State Second Vice President for the Children of the American Revolution, the local Sequoyah CAR President, and is active in FFA, basketball, Expeditions in Etiquette and an active member of the Art-with-a-Heart 4H Club. She is the daughter of Lea Stallings and Ray McGlocklin.

College grid start Madison Ross named ‘Man of Year’



Madison Ross

Madison Ross, a Chickasaw from Fort Worth, Texas, was recently named Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference “Man of the Year” for the 2015-2016 academic year. Mr. Ross graduated from Austin College in Sherman, Texas this year following an outstanding collegiate football career. The award is presented annually to graduating student-athletes who have distinguished themselves throughout their collegiate careers in academic achievement, athletic excellence, community service and leadership. During his senior season, Mr. Ross led the SCAC in rushing yards and became the first Austin College player to surpass 1,000 yards in a season since 2000. Mr. Ross was also an outstanding student, graduating with a 3.93 grade point average. He has served as a tutor to children, and has worked with children with disabilities at a local elementary school. Mr. Ross is a Phi Beta Kappa and was on the Capital One Academic All-America team for two years in a row.

Tennessee PGA Jr. Golf all-stars



The Tennessee State PGA Junior League Champion junior golf all-star team recently competed in the Mississippi Valley Regional Championships at Oak Tree Country Club in Edmond, Okla. Among the Tennessee golfers was Chickasaw citizen Wesley Sandlin, back row center. The team competed against all-star junior golf teams from Alabama, Missouri, Mississippi and Arkansas.

Young Chickasaw golf team member competes at Mississippi Valley regionals

The Tennessee State PGA Jr. League Champion golf team traveled to Edmond, Okla., Sept. 30 to play in the Mississippi Valley Regional Championship. The two-day tournament was played at the prestigious Oak Tree Country Club. Among the Tennessee players was Wesley Sandlin, 13, a Chickasaw citizen. At the beginning of the 2016 season there were approximately 36,000 juniors playing on 2,500 teams across the country. Going into the postseason with 590 teams, only 32 teams played in the Regionals, leaving only eight spots in the national finals. Team Tennessee battled Alabama, Missouri, Mississippi and Arkansas. Team Tennessee played better each match and placed third. “My most exciting moment was on Sunday against Missouri, 7th hole, when my son Wesley, age 13, hit a killer drive 265 yards and laid the ball on the side of the green and then chipped it in for an eagle,” Tammy Sandlin, parent of Wesley Sandlin said. Murfreesboro’s 10-person team is represented by young golfers from Tullahoma, Shelbyville and Murfreesboro. Representing Tullahoma were Mallory Tevrucht, Alex Mills and A.C. Banks from Lakewood Golf & Country Club coached by John Dochety, head pro and PGA Professional. Representing Shelbyville were Conner Brown, Brady O’Neal, Bennett Boyce and Garrett Rucker from Riverbend Country Club coached by Jake Pimental, assistant pro. Representing Murfreesboro were Wesley Sandlin, Carter Stephens and Jacob Teply coached by Jex Wilson, PGA Master Professional and Director of Instruction & Junior Golf Development at Old Fort Golf Club.

Chickasaw performer featured



Chickasaw performer Cheyenne McDonald, left, portrays the “silly girl” in a stage production of “Beauty and the Beast.” The play will run through Dec. 23 in Santa Maria, Calif. Mrs. McDonald has furthered her arts education with assistance from the Chickasaw Nation.

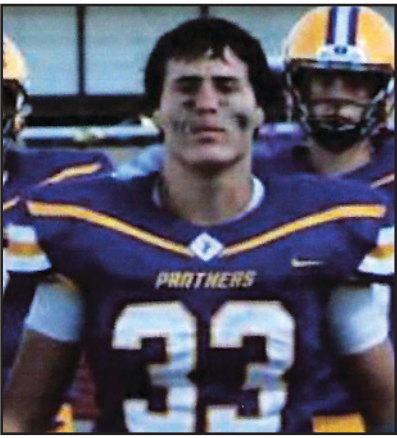
Chickasaw student contributes to public art project



Abby Egge-Ogas

A Chickasaw high school student in New Mexico has recently participated in a public park art project. Abby Egge-Ogas, 15, was part of a group of young artists who painted mural of local bird life at a park in Silver City, N.M. The group consisted of eight young artists. Abby is Chickasaw and Apache. She is a direct descendant of original enrollees Shug Johnson Jack and her son Walter Jack. We are very proud of Abby’s gift of art!

Chickasaw prep football player chosen for all-star game



Jimmie Ethan Hays

A Chickasaw high school football player has recently been selected to play in a Texas all-star game. Jimmie Ethan Hays is a senior linebacker for the Panhandle (TX) High School Panthers. The 5’11”, 215-lb., linebacker has been chosen to play in the annual Blue-Grey All-American Bowl Dec. 22. The game will be played at AT&T Stadium in Dallas, home of the NFL’s Dallas Cowboys. Jimmie, 17, was one of 90 players selected from among almost 7,000 candidates.

Employees recognized by NextGen Under 30

Fifteen Chickasaw Nation employees have been designated recipients of NextGen Under 30 honors. NextGen Under 30 is a coveted designation that recognizes individuals who demonstrate

talent, drive and service to their communities. As the name implies, they are the youthful - 30 years of age and under - movers and shakers not only of tomorrow, but today.

Award winners are selected by a panel of judges based on their participation in, and contribution to, their communities. Winners were honored at an awards dinner in November at Cox

Convention Center in Oklahoma City and profiled in *ionOklahoma* magazine.

Chickasaw employees won in the categories of Arts, Education, Finance, Healthcare, Hospitality, Media, Public Re-

lations and Tribal Government Gaming. Below is a complete list of winners by category along with a brief biographical sketch of each.

CONTRIBUTED BY Loné Beasley, Media Relations.

ARTS



Cody Reynolds
Mr. Reynolds is program manager in the Chickasaw Nation Department of Culture and Humanities. Mr. Reynolds, an 8-year employee with the Tribe, is a graduate of the Schnake Turnbo Frank Leadership and Reputation Academy. He worked with contractors to restore the Chickasaw Bank Museum in Tishomingo after the facility caught fire in December 2015 and is currently working to make it a tourist destination. Along with his other duties, he is helping the Chickasaw Nation maintain a strong relationship with the Johnston County Historical Society. He is continuing his education as a History major at Murray State College.



Gentry Fisher
Ms. Fisher is a graphic designer in the department of culture and humanities. In 2015 she graduated from East Central University as a member of Alpha Chi National Honor Society with a 3.7 GPA. Her field of study was Mass Communications with an emphasis in Public Relations and Advertising. The two-year Chickasaw Nation employee won a Gold ADDY for the 2016 Chickasaw Press Catalog. She is a volunteer court appointed special advocate (CASA) and is involved in her church where she works in the children's ministry.



Joe Thomas
Mr. Thomas is the Chickasaw Nation Department of Culture and Humanities special assistant. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree with an emphasis on Native American Studies from the University of Oklahoma in 2011. In 2015 he earned his Master of Science degree with an emphasis in Native American Leadership from Southeastern Oklahoma State University where he graduated Summa Cum Laude and as a member of Gamma Theta Upsilon – International Geographical Honor Society. He is a Ronald E. McNair Scholar. Mr. Thomas, a published author, is also a Dale Carnegie graduate, a Schnake Turnbo Frank Leadership & Reputation Academy graduate and a Leadership University graduate.



Jeff Carpenter
Mr. Carpenter, a ten-year employee, is an audio production supervisor for the Chickasaw Nation Department of Communications and Community Development. He is a 2006 graduate of Media Tech Institute where his studies emphasized Audio Engineering. Mr. Carpenter served as the primary sound mixer for the Chickasaw Nation's "Te Ata" movie and also co-wrote its theme song. He has won two Native American Music awards and is a three-time TELLY Award winner. Mr. Carpenter has also garnered an ADDY award. He has performed across the United States and Europe with Injunuity, a contemporary Native American music group that has released five studio albums.



Laura Robinson
Mrs. Robinson is Chickasaw Nation Department of Health Nutrition Services breast-feeding peer counselor. She is currently working toward earning her International Board Certified Lactation Consultant certification. Mrs. Robinson employs innovative and creative techniques to motivate, educate and encourage mothers to provide the best start for their babies. While her passion is providing education and support to mothers and expectant mothers regarding breast-feeding, she is also helping build a stronger, healthier generation by working to decrease diabetes and obesity.

FINANCE



Monica Ellis
Ms. Ellis, a five-year employee of the Chickasaw Nation, currently serves as senior accounting manager in the Nation's division of commerce. She discovered her career passion upon taking an accounting course at East Central University, eventually earning a master's degree in that field. Her personal mission statement is to "Grow, improve and exceed expectations" and credits the Chickasaw Nation with providing a venue to accomplish that high ideal. Outside of work she has supported numerous small organizations with applying for funding as a way to merge her love for accounting and community.



Matthew Chesnut
Mr. Chesnut is Chickasaw Nation Division of Commerce senior new business development and private markets investments manager. He is a two-year tribal employee who graduated from the University of Arkansas in 2009 with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration degree. He majored in Finance and minored in Political Science and Accounting. In 2014 Mr. Chesnut earned his Masters of Business Administration degree from Harvard Business School. He is currently trustee and treasurer of the Chickasaw Foundation and a member of the board of directors for Central Oklahoma Humane Society.



Clayton Edwards
Mr. Edwards is a Science, Technology, Education and Math (STEM) teacher in the Chickasaw Nation Division of Education. Before joining the Tribe, he earned his Mathematics degree from East Central University in 2010. The five-year-employee has worked with 47 teams of students, assisting them to build and program robots for 35 robotics competitions in six states. In 2013, Chickasaw Nation Metal Mayhem robotics team members advanced to the world championships where they competed against teams from 24 countries. In 2012 Mr. Edwards was selected out of 250 applicants to attend the U.S. Air Force Leadership Training program at the Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Florida.



Matthew Stephens
Mr. Stephens began working for the Chickasaw Nation less than a year ago as a communications specialist with the department communications and community development. During that time he has conducted 10 research projects to support the Nation's public affairs needs, including multimedia and social media research and historical research on Oklahoma and its people. Before joining the Tribe, he served 10 years in the U.S. Navy. Among many other accomplishments during his stint with the Navy, Mr. Stephens was an integral member of a team that developed an update to the operational concept of one of the nation's most challenging war plans. He is currently completing his Bachelor of Arts degree in History.



Heather Rudd
Ms. Rudd is a marketing manager with the Chickasaw Nation Division of Commerce and a six-year employee with the Tribe. In 2012 she graduated from East Central University with a degree in Management. She began her career as a gaming and retail intern, later serving as administrative assistant, special projects coordinator, administrator for a nonprofit organization and a project manager. Community involvement is a major aspect of her current responsibilities. Ms. Rudd is currently assisting organizations such as United Way, Big Brothers and Big Sisters, Cavett Kids and Regional Food Bank.

EDUCATION



Lacey McFadden
Ms. McFadden is resource monitor and special projects manager in the Chickasaw Nation Education Division. She is a 2012 graduate of East Central University who majored in English Education. She has worked with the tribe for five years. Her current responsibilities have her involved with all programs within the office of child care. She is a Chickasaw Leadership Academy Silver Level participant. Ms. McFadden is currently implementing a newly awarded foster grandparent program grant designed to involve eligible elders one-on-one with children according to their special needs.



Joshua Jennings
Mr. Jennings is general manager of Chickasaw Nation Retreat and Conference Center in Sulphur, Oklahoma. He is a ten-year tribal employee who prepared for his current responsibilities by earning his Bachelor of Science degree in Kinesiology (recreation) from East Central University in 2010. Mr. Jennings serves as Davis Chamber of Commerce vice president and will serve as its president in 2017. He is an active Kiwanian, a member of the Murray County Development Authority and a recent graduate of Leadership Murray County Class XII.



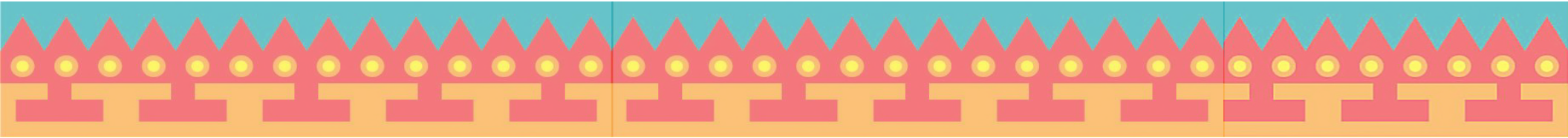
Jimmy Pacheco
Mr. Pacheco, who began his career as a line-level employee in 2009, was promoted in 2011 to executive housekeeper before assuming his current responsibilities as Riverwind hotel rooms operation manager. He was a part of the team that has maintained Riverwind Hotel's No. 1 ranking in Trip Advisor and that has also garnered numerous awards through the Oklahoma Hotel and Lodging Association. Mr. Pacheco was named 2015 manager of the year by the American Hotel and Lodging Association. He has performed volunteer work with Habitat for Humanity, Clean the World and the Regional Food Bank.



Stephanie Wood
Ms. Wood is Artesian Hotel Casino and Spa's front service manager. She is a three-year tribal employee who graduated in 2011 from East Central University with a degree in Business Administration and Finance. Ms. Wood has earned several American Hotel and Lodging Education Institute certifications, including hotel revenue manager, rooms division executive and hotel administrator. Red Bud awards achieved include Outstanding Lodging Property in 2014 and 2016; Best Social Media Campaign in 2015; and Outstanding Marketing Campaign in 2014. In 2015 Artesian Hotel Casino and Spa was designated Community Service Property of the Year by the Oklahoma Hotel and Lodging Association.



Joy Moon
Ms. Moon is special assistant in the Chickasaw Nation Department of Communications and Community Development. She earned her Bachelor of Science degree with a major in Accounting from East Central University in 2015. She is an eight-year employee. Ms. Moon is a bronze and silver graduate of Chickasaw Nation Career Leadership Development, graduate of Ada Area Chamber of Commerce's Leadership program, and a graduate of the Ada chamber's Leadership YOUNiversity. She is a committee member of Young Professionals of Ada and a member of the East Central University Alumni Association.



Presenters sought for 2017 Dynamic Women Conference

Chickasaw Nation Arts & Humanities is accepting presentation proposals for the 2017 Dynamic Women of The Chickasaw Nation Conference, April 27-28, 2017 at the Artesian Hotel & Spa in Sulphur, Okla.

This conference is a platform to showcase and recognize the dynamic and truly remarkable women of the Chickasaw Nation. The conference is full of wonderful presentations, breakout sessions and audience driven forums.

The 2017 conference will be a full two-day event with expanded sessions and networking opportunities.

Applications can be found at www.chickasaw.net. Proposal submission deadline is Dec. 15.

For more information, contact Arts & Humanities at (580) 272-5520 or rachel.wedlow@chickasaw.net.

Chilocco 1967 class reunion set for June

The 50-year reunion of the Chilocco Indian School class of 1967 is coming up next June.

The reunion will be June 15-17, 2017 at the Chilocco and First Council Casino Event Center in Newkirk, Okla.

For more information, contact Freida Homeratha at (405) 535-1765.

Council House Museum store sale on now

TISHOMINGO, Okla. - The Chickasaw Council House Museum Store is having a sale. Selected items throughout the store are 20 to 30 percent off.

The Chickasaw Council House Museum Store offers a great selection for all your holiday gift needs. The sale ends Dec. 30.

The museum store offers a variety of souvenirs, books, music and Chickasaw language materials. The store also has pottery, jewelry, beadwork and other artwork by Chickasaw artists.

The Chickasaw Council House Museum Store is at 209 N. Fisher, Tishomingo, and is open Tuesday through Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., and Saturday from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

For more information, contact the store at (580) 371-3351.

Chickasaw officials attend OU education forum

NORMAN, Okla. - Several Chickasaw tribal education officials recently participated in a conference to enhance teaching and other education efforts.

The Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence hosted its annual Fall Forum for Local Education Foundations on the University of Oklahoma campus in Norman.

Chickasaw Nation Education Executive Officer Danny Wells and STEP education specialist Sean Sellers were joined by Chickasaw Nation employees Ben White, Woodrow Wilson and Bill Van at the October forum.

The conference theme was “Connecting for Kids.” Oklahoma City University president Robert Henry presented the keynote address on “Knowing, Understanding, Expressing, Acting: What Teachers Do.”

Participants attended a variety of breakout sessions led by state experts in nonprofit leadership, local education foundation administration, fundraising, marketing and programming.

The Chickasaw Nation provides children with educational opportunities through a number of programs, including Chickasaw Honor Club, school supply assistance program, science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) programs and the Reading is Fundamental program.

The Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence is a nonprofit, charitable organization created in 1985 to recognize and encourage academic excellence in Oklahoma’s public schools.

CONTRIBUTED BY Mallory Jones, Media Relations.

Step Out Walk to Stop Diabetes

Over 400 join in annual event to end diabetes

ADA, Okla. - More than 400 walkers, joggers and champions against diabetes gathered to support the American Diabetes Step Out Walk to Stop Diabetes Nov. 5 at East Central University.

Step Out participants committed to walking and raising money in this inspirational community event. Over 30 million people in the U.S. live with diabetes.

The more than \$32,000 raised at the event is to help find a cure for diabetes while also improving the lives of those who are living every day with diabetes. A total of 27 teams participated, making the event larger than 2015. Fundraising continues through Dec. 5.

Chickasaw Nation Medical Center Chief of Endocrinology Dr. Curtis Harris delivered a strong message.

“It is a difficult disease, there is just no question about it,” he said. “We need all your help in that. Not only research, but today if you have a friend who has diabetes and he or she needs some help in any way, provide that to them. It may be

something very simple like a ride to class but you should honor them, treat them well, because they have burden they deal with every day.”

Resources provided at the Medical Center - including medications, lipid management and more - are advancing diabetes management. With support from the community, the event was the first of many steps in the right direction to stop diabetes. The walk celebrated those living with diabetes as “Red Striders,” children or adults who have Type 1, Type 2 or gestational diabetes. The Red Striders led the 2.1-mile walk. A number of memorial signs lined the route dedicated to those who have succumbed to diabetes.

Chickasaw citizen and employee LaTonia Orphan served as the 2016 chairperson. As a diabetic, she lives this challenge every day.

“This event is very important and special to me,” Ms. Orphan said. “We raise awareness for the community and citizens so everyone can show their support today,



East Central University President John Hargrave kicks off the Step Out Walk to Stop Diabetes Nov. 5 on the East Central campus. Pres. Hargrave was one of the “Red Striders” who began the 2016 American Diabetes Step Out Walk to Stop Diabetes. Photo provided by Public Affairs

come to the event and see we are here to help. Today’s event showed there is much support and Red Striders living with diabetes that we all can help together.”

For more information, or to donate, contact LaTonia Orphan at latonia.orphan@chickasaw.net.

CONTRIBUTED BY Christopher Roman Nose, Public Affairs.

Environmental classes in January

Chickasaw Nation Environmental Services will host 12 environmental education classes for youth ages 13-16, from January through May 2017. The Yaakni Appisachi Day Camps will be from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Kullihoma. Lunch will be provided.

To promote a better understanding of environmental protection issues, participants will learn the importance of taking care of the environment through hands-on experience.

Youth will take trips to local hiking/backpacking trails

for a day. The group will hike out for a short trip and set up a camp. Leaders will teach and demonstrate skills to reduce environmental impacts, as well as teaching about outdoor emergencies, first aid and survival.

This hiking experience is free and open to the public. Chickasaw preference will be given. Camp size is limited.

For more information, or to register, contact Chickasaw Nation Environmental Services at (580) 272-5412.

CONTRIBUTED BY Taylor Owen, Public Affairs.

Ceramics classes beginning in January

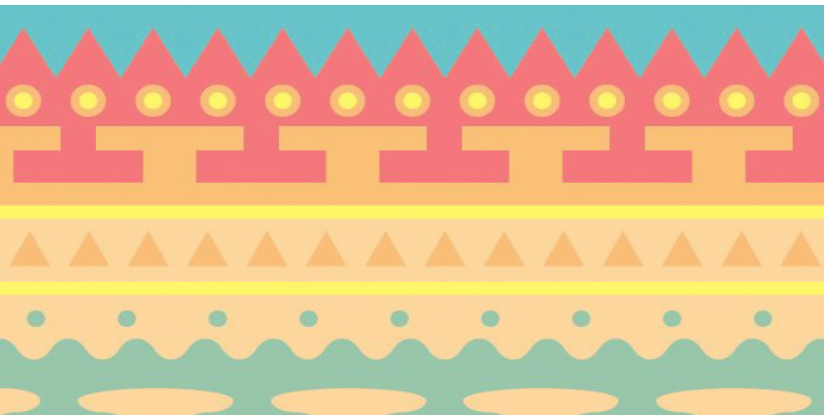
Chickasaw Nation Arts & Humanities presents a wheel-thrown pottery class, Jan. 9 - March 8, at the Arts & Humanities ceramics studio, 210 N. Broadway Ave., Ada, Okla.

This nine-week class will meet on Mondays and Wednesdays from 6-8 p.m. Students will learn how to use the potter’s wheel to create artistic, functional and decorative pottery.

Wayneath Weddle, East Central University ceramics and sculpture instructor, will lead the class.

This class is open to the public. Enrollment and material fee of \$25 for all non-Chickasaw citizens. Class size is limited.

For more information, or to enroll, contact Arts & Humanities at (580) 272-5520.



Chickasaw naval officer honors warrior tradition

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. - Chief Petty Officer Ben Espinosa, USN, a Chickasaw citizen and Shawnee, Okla., native, has traveled the world, served three U.S. Secretaries of Defense, and shaken hands with the President on more than one occasion.

His service in the military, like his tribal connection, is part of his heritage.

“I remember seeing a picture of my great uncle in uniform on the wall of grandmother’s house,” he said. “I remember the pride in her eyes when she spoke of his service to the nation.”

Chief Petty Officer Espinosa has earned many opportunities during his 14-year career in the Navy. The one he finds most meaningful is being able to educate others about the Chickasaw Nation and Native Americans.

“I feel as if I’m representing the Chickasaw Nation every day,” he said. “You don’t see a lot of Native Americans in the military and most people don’t have a clear understanding of tribal governments or what modern day Native Americans are like. I’m honored to be able to represent and inform people about our nation all over the world.”

Chief Petty Officer Espinosa lives in Virginia Beach with his wife

Robin, a Navajo citizen, and their three children. He spends much of his time traveling for operations and training. Although the Espinosas live far from home, their tribal connections are important parts of their lives.

“We have deep ties to our tribal roots,” he said. “Without the opportunities I’ve had through the Navy, I wouldn’t have been able to share our culture with the greater populous. Warriors in the Chickasaw Nation don’t only take pride in serving the United States. They also take equal pride in serving the Chickasaw Nation.”

Those opportunities started with an eight-month deployment to Afghanistan that led to a staff position for the Secretary of the Defense at the Pentagon. Chief Petty Officer Espinosa served on the direct staff, an honor reserved for only five naval officers, under three consecutive Secretaries of Defense.

He serves with Seal Team Ten, the same team that inspired the book and movie Lone Survivor based on heroic events during Operation Red Wings in Afghanistan.

“I feel as if I’ve gotten opportunities that most people don’t get



Chief Petty Officer Ben Espinosa, USN, a Chickasaw citizen, shakes hands with President Barack Obama during CPO Espinosa’s service at the Pentagon.

in the lifetime,” he said. “I’ve met more dignitaries than I could have imagined. None of that would have happened if I hadn’t been to Afghanistan.”

Chief Petty Officer Espinosa is part of the Chickasaw Nation’s Warrior Society. The program encourages the camaraderie of Chickasaw citizens who have served in the armed forces, and also honors their sacrifices. The Chickasaw Nation is proud of veterans who personify the Chickasaw warrior spirit.

“I am humbled by the way the Chickasaw Nation honors its warriors, both past present and future,” Chief Petty Officer Espinosa said. “The Chickasaw Nation doesn’t owe us anything, but they do it anyway. In my view, that is what respect is all about.”

To learn more about the Chickasaw Warrior Society, or to apply to be a part, visit www.chickasaw.net/warriorsociety.

CONTRIBUTED BY Jennifer Jones, Public Affairs.

Tribe engaged in program to support butterfly survival, habitat

SULPHUR, Okla. – Dr. Chip Taylor is saving monarch butterflies one at a time with the help of a whole lot of people.

The silver-haired, distinguished former University of Kansas professor serves as Director of Monarch Watch, a research, education and conservation group that has awarded seven Oklahoma tribes grants to assist monarchs. Restoration of habitat will help butterflies rebuild dangerously low population numbers.

The Chickasaw Nation and representatives of Citizen Potawatomie, Seminole, Osage and Muscogee Creek tribes, spent Oct. 19 building a “hoop greenhouse” on property near the traditional village at the Chickasaw Cultural Center in Sulphur. Dr. Taylor, Jane Breckinridge, an Oklahoma Native American butterfly expert from Bixby, and Thalia Miller, Chickasaw Nation director of horticulture, watched the specialized greenhouse take shape.

The 18'x36' aluminum-framed building is the brainchild of Kingston, Okla., resident Leon Sloan. It offers an enclosure for milkweed- and nectar-producing plants and a way for monarchs to enter and depart the structure safely. A specialized heat-venting system invented by Mr. Sloan keeps crops and critters safe when temperatures soar.

PROJECT PAYS OFF
The Chickasaw Nation has been involved with Monarch Watch for more than one year. Prior to joining the University of Kansas initiative, the tribe was involved in assisting monarchs, and other pollinators, thrive.

David Correll, Cultural Center greenhouse supervisor, counted more than 400 monarchs in October and – while driving a golf cart from the parking lot to the greenhouse – didn't finish a single sentence as he expressed glee at seeing butterfly after butterfly.

“You know, this project is ... MONARCH,” he suddenly called out. “Actually three monarchs! See. Right there on the lantana,” he pointed as Osage official Shane Rencountre scanned the yellow blossoms searching for them.

“Well, the project is just proving to be ... ANOTHER ONE,” Mr. Correll yelled, slamming on the brakes and pointing. “How many have we counted today, Shane? Probably 25?” he asked his passenger.

“I think 28,” said Mr. Rencountre, director of the Osage Nation's Bird Creek Farms.

Mr. Rencountre traveled south from Pawhuska, Okla., to see the hoop greenhouse go up. All seven tribes involved in Monarch Watch will be furnished a hoop greenhouse.

Rhonda Sellers, Chickasaw Nation ecological resource coordinator, is excited to see so many monarchs migrating south to Mexico making stops at the Cultural Center.

“We always knew we could make a difference for butterflies, bees, insects, and other pollinators,” she said. “When you see them in numbers you didn't expect, it is satisfying. The tribe is making a difference.”

A BEAUTIFUL EFFORT
Dr. Taylor traveled from Lawrence, Kansas to witness construction. He was in constant conversation with Ms. Miller, who manages all horticultural efforts for the Chickasaw Nation.

“I am thrilled to be here and involved with the best people in the world,” Dr. Taylor said. “The Cultural Center is world-class. To be involved with Native Americans on a project involving natural resources is a pleasure. The tribes not only work as a team, they help each other. They make it interesting and exciting.”

The Monarch Watch leader is non-Native. He is learning about stewardship of natural resources from the Native Americans involved in the project.

“We will be working gathering seeds of native plants and these wonderful people are working shoulder-to-shoulder,” Dr. Taylor said. “They share the history and traditions of their tribes and ‘best practices’ they have discovered to help all living things.”

“I am so pleased we approached the tribes to take part in this.”

Seven Oklahoma tribes are planting native nectar plants and milkweed for monarchs. The orange, black and white butterfly dines on nectar and reproduces on milkweed plants. When eggs hatch, they consume the milkweed plant to begin their lifecycle.

Tribes are planting “islands” throughout their territories. At the Cultural Center, flowerbeds throughout the 184-acre campus contain the types of plants that will attract monarchs. Milkweed is



A monarch butterfly searches for nectar in a chastetree blossom on the Chickasaw Cultural Center campus.



The “Hoop House” basic structure takes shape on land near the Traditional Village at the Chickasaw Cultural Center.

abundant at the Cultural Center so the creatures may reproduce.

Additionally, Chickasaws have partnered with the Tishomingo National Wildlife Refuge to produce several “islands” to sustain and

grow the butterfly population. Now, with the hoop greenhouse, the tribe expects to see more success.

“Manpower and commitment are two elements tribes bring to this project that inspire others,” Dr.

Taylor said. “With their innate love and understanding of stewardship, we are seeing real success in just two years.”

CONTRIBUTED BY Gene Lehmann, Media Relations.

Honoring Ponca Chief Standing Bear Jarod Tate performs original cantata

LINCOLN, Neb. – Chickasaw classical composer Jarod Tate presented his commissioned work “Standing Bear: A Ponca Indian Cantata” at Lied Center's Carson Theater in Lincoln Nov. 4.

The 25-minute cantata – a vocal composition with instrumental accompaniment – was composed by Mr. Tate for solo baritone, piano and string sextet. He was commissioned to write the work by the Hildegard Center for the Arts to “share with a new generation the timeless story of Ponca Chief Standing Bear,” Nebraska arts officials said.

The performance was sold out. Mr. Tate's composition was written in both English and Ponca. Mr. Tate is an Emmy Award-winning Chickasaw musician who lives in Oklahoma City.

Standing Bear was a prominent Indian leader who delivered an impassioned plea – commonly referred to as “I Am a Man” speech – during an 1879 trial in in Omaha, Nebraska. Standing Bear argued Native Americans were “persons within the meaning of the law.” He further argued Native Americans possessed the right of habeas corpus. He prevailed in court, igniting a movement toward greater understanding and compassion for Indian people.

As European settlers streamed across the Plains in search of homesteads, the Ponca tribe was pressured to leave Nebraska for lands in Indian Territory. In May 1877, the tribe was removed but great numbers of Ponca died of starvation and disease when farm implements and provisions promised by the government never arrived.

In July 2016, the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska officially endorsed Mr. Tate's commission and granted funding for the Nov. 4 world premiere.

Mr. Tate conducted the premiere. He also narrated demonstrations to guide the audience through the work, both compositionally and culturally. Combining classic music with Native languages has become the focal point of Mr. Tate's career. He has traveled throughout the U.S. and abroad to bring his original compositions and Native languages to audiences.

In October, Mr. Tate premiered an oratorio he composed entirely in Chickasaw. It was performed at the Oklahoma City Civic Center Mu-



JAROD TATE

sic Hall and was commissioned by Canterbury Voices.

The oratorio, “Misha’ Sipokni’ (The Old Ground)” concerns the Chickasaw and Choctaw tribes' ancient migration from the west into present-day Mississippi.

“Misha' Sipokni' ” marked Mr. Tate's seventh commission featuring the Chickasaw language.

CONTRIBUTED BY Gene Lehmann, Media Relations.

Honor Club recipients

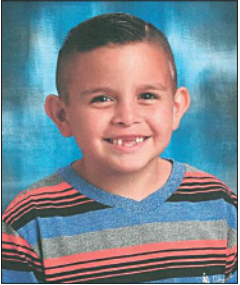
2016 Recipients

Aiden Chisenhall, son of Brandy Chisenhall of Mesquite, Texas, is a December recipient of the Chickasaw Honor Club Award for Outstanding Achievement. Aiden is in the second grade at Florence Black Elementary School.

Aiden was nominated by his teacher, Ms. Salin.

“A i d e n works very hard on his assignments,” Ms. Salin said.

This scholar loves to play video games, baseball and music. His future plans include becoming a policeman to protect everyone.



Aiden Chisenhall

Matison Worcester, daughter of Matt and Shelli Worcester, of Latta, Okla., is a recipient of the Chickasaw Honor Club Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement.

She is a senior at Latta High School and was nominated by teacher, Melinda Isaacs.

“Matison consistently balances her busy athletic schedule with her course work,” Ms. Isaacs said. “This year, she has added on-line college courses to her already demanding schedule and she is doing very well.”

After graduating high school, Matison plans to attend Rose State College to obtain her nursing degree and to continue playing softball.



Matison Worcester

CONTRIBUTED BY Taylor Owen, Public Affairs.

Saturday Evening Movies

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NATIONAL LAMPOON'S CHRISTMAS VACATION (PG-13)

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OBITUARIES

Junior Ray Burris

Services for Junior Ray Burris, 70, of Ada, Okla., were November 26, 2016 at A Place of New Hope Pentecostal Holiness Church of Latta, with Rev. Toby Willoughby officiating. Burial followed in New Bethel Cemetery at Byng, Okla.

Mr. Burris passed away Monday, November 21, at his home. He was born May 2, 1946 at Willis, Okla., to R. F. and Lois Looney Burris. He attended Tipton, Okla., schools and graduated from Tipton High School.

He married Melba Hatcher August 8, 1964 in Frederick, Okla. He and his family moved to this area June 13, 1986 from Tipton. Mr. Burris was a truck driver until his retirement and of the Pentecostal faith.

He was preceded in death by

his parents. Survivors include his wife, Melba, of the home; his children, Tonya Ulrich and husband, Bryan, of Ada, Trinda Zukosky and husband, Anthony, of Ada, Shanella Arnett and husband Matthew of Tushka, and Stoney Burris and wife, Nyree, of Ada; a sister, Reda Dominey, of Tipton; six grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Bearers were Steve Hatcher, Jackie Hatcher, Allen Shane Dominey, James Dale Blackford, James Howard Hatcher and Don Hatcher. Honorary bearers will be Larry Fowler, Wesley and Scotty Fowler.

Obituaries may be viewed and online condolences sent to criswellfh.com.

Note of Thanks

We very much appreciate the Chickasaw Nation for sponsoring our recent veterans' trip to Washington, D.C. It was a wonderful trip and the people who did the real work took very good care of us. I can't thank each of them enough. Thank you so much for caring about us veterans and elders. We are all very proud of our tribe.
Ray McCarter
Marlow, Oklahoma

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Chickasaw Citizen

OCTOBER 2016 LEGISLATIVE MINUTES

CHICKASAW NATION TRIBAL LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION
Legislature Building
Ada, Oklahoma
October 21, 2016

AGENDA ITEM #1 CALL MEETING TO ORDER
Chairperson Connie Barker called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM #2 ROLL CALL
Members present: Connie Barker, Lisa J. Billy, Linda Briggs, Katie Case, Tim Colbert, Nancy Elliott, Shana Hammond, Dean McManus, Toby Perkins, David Woerz, Scott Wood, Steve Woods

Member absent: Beth Alexander
Staff present: Doretta Sellers, Recording Secretary, Harold Stick, Sergeant-At-Arms, Robert Cheadle, Legislative Counsel

Guests present: Mary Jo Green, Michael L. Wingo, Dana Lance, Judy Foster

AGENDA ITEM #3 INVOCATION
Invocation was given by Mr. Perkins.

AGENDA ITEM #4 ELECTION OF OFFICERS
Chairperson Barker opened the floor for nominations to Chairperson.

Ms. Briggs nominated Mr. David Woerz. Ms. McManus nominated Ms. Nancy Elliott. A motion was made by Mr. Woerz and seconded by Ms. Briggs for nominations to cease.

Secret ballots were cast, counted, and Chairperson Barker announced Mr. David Woerz as the next Chairperson.

Chairperson Woerz announced the floor was open for nominations for Secretary.

Mr. Woods nominated Mr. Scott Wood. Ms. Briggs nominated Mr. Perkins. Chairperson Woerz moved that nominations cease.

Secret ballots were cast and counted. Chairperson Woerz announced there was a tie and asked the Legislative Counsel to explain the options to move forward.

Mr. Cheadle stated Roberts Rules of Order offers three options in the event of a tie. First, the motion is lost and the body starts over with the vote. Second, the body keeps voting until one is elected; and third, the Chairperson has the option to abstain from voting.

Chairperson Woerz passed the gavel.
A motion was made by Mr. Woerz and seconded by Ms. Hammond to proceed to vote until the tie was broken.

Members voting yes: Connie Barker, Lisa J. Billy, Linda Briggs, Katie Case, Tim Colbert, Nancy Elliott, Shana Hammond, Dean McManus, Toby Perkins, David Woerz, Scott Wood, Steve Woods

12 yes votes
The motion to proceed to vote until the tie was broken carried unanimously.

Secret ballots were cast a second time. Ballots were counted and Chairperson Woerz announced a tie.

Secret ballots were cast a third time. Ballots were counted and Chairperson Woerz announced a tie.

Chairperson Woerz asked Legislative Counsel to reiterate the options. Mr. Cheadle stated the options are the motion dies and the body starts over, and the third option is the chairperson has the option to abstain from the vote.

A motion was made by Ms. Briggs to proceed.
A motion was made by Mr. Colbert and seconded by Ms. Elliott to flip a coin to break the tie.

Ms. Briggs withdrew her motion.
Members voting yes: Connie Barker, Lisa J. Billy, Linda Briggs, Katie Case, Tim Colbert, Nancy Elliott, Shana Hammond, Dean McManus, Toby Perkins, David

Woerz, Scott Wood, Steve Woods
12 yes votes
The motion to flip a coin to break the tie for Secretary carried unanimously.
After the coin toss Chairperson Woerz announced Mr. Perkins as Secretary.

Chairperson Woerz nominated Ms. Doretta Sellers as Recording Secretary and Ms. Briggs seconded the nomination. Mr. Colbert moved that nominations cease and Ms. Sellers be elected by acclamation.

Chairperson Woerz nominated Mr. Harold Stick as Sergeant-At-Arms and Ms. Barker seconded the nomination. Chairperson Woerz moved that nominations cease and Mr. Stick be elected by acclamation.

AGENDA ITEM #5 READING OF MINUTES - September 16, 2016

A motion was made by Ms. Briggs and seconded by Ms. Hammond to approve the minutes of September 16, 2016.

Members voting yes: Connie Barker, Linda Briggs, Katie Case, Tim Colbert, Nancy Elliott, Shana Hammond, Dean McManus, Toby Perkins, David Woerz, Scott Wood, Steve Woods

11 yes votes
Member abstaining: Lisa J. Billy
1 abstention
The motion to approve the minutes of September 16, 2016 carried.

AGENDA ITEM #6: UNFINISHED BUSINESS
There was no unfinished business.

AGENDA ITEM #7: REPORTS OF COMMITTEES
HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE REPORT by Committee Chair Dean McManus

General Resolution Number 34-001, Gubernatorial Reappointment - Chickasaw Nation Election Commission, Catherine Wood

This resolution approves Governor Bill Anoatubby's reappointment of Ms. Catherine Wood, a citizen of the Tishomingo District of the Chickasaw Nation, to the Chickasaw Nation Election Commission to fill a term of office ending on December 31, 2019.

A motion was made by Ms. Briggs and seconded by Mr. Colbert to approve GR34-001.

Members voting yes: Connie Barker, Lisa J. Billy, Linda Briggs, Katie Case, Tim Colbert, Nancy Elliott, Shana Hammond, Dean McManus, Toby Perkins, David Woerz, Scott Wood, Steve Woods

12 yes votes
The motion to approve GR34-001 carried unanimously.
Ms. McManus concluded her report.

AGENDA ITEM #8 NEW BUSINESS (Comments from Citizens)

There was no new business to discuss.

Ms. Judy Foster presented a thank you card from the Mannsville School for the invitation to attend the Chickasaw Festival. She commented on the upcoming elders' holiday parties and also noted that a clinic in the Kingston, Marshall County area, would be a good location for citizens living in that area. Chairperson Woerz presented a plaque and gavel to Ms. Barker for her two years of service as Chairperson to the Legislature.

AGENDA ITEM #9 ADJOURNMENT
The Legislative Session adjourned at 9:28 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Toby Perkins, Secretary
Chickasaw Nation Tribal Legislature
Prepared by:
Doretta Sellers, Recording Secretary
Chickasaw Nation Tribal Legislature

NOVEMBER 2016 RESOLUTIONS

General Resolution Number 34-002
Applications for Grants under the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service

Explanation: This resolution approves the Chickasaw Nation's grant applications for the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) Grant from the United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service. Funds from these grants will be utilized to cover costs associated with repatriation of Native American "cultural items," including human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects and objects of cultural patrimony.

Presented by: Human Resources Committee
Yes Votes: Beth Alexander, Lisa J. Billy, Linda Briggs, Katie Case, Tim Colbert, Shana Hammond, Toby Perkins, David Woerz, Scott Wood, Steve Woods

General Resolution Number 34-003
Approval of Application for Funding-Administration on Aging, Title VI, Part A Grant for Native Americans and Title VI, Part C Grant for Native American Caregiver Support

Explanation: This resolution grants approval of the Chickasaw Nation's application for funding - Administration for Community Living, formerly Administration on Aging, Title VI, Part A Grants for Native Americans and Title VI, Part C Grant for Native American Caregiver support. The Chickasaw Nation is one of the 83 original Title VI grantees of the Older Americans Act (Part A). The Nutrition Programs are authorized under Title IIIC of the Older Americans Act. They fulfill their purpose by providing access to healthy meals, nutrition education and nutrition counseling.

The Administration for Community Living has also made funding available for Native American Caregivers (Part C). This is a federal program funded through the Administration on Aging, Title VI-C program to assist families who are caring for an older relative with a chronic illness or disability and to help provide support services for family caregivers and/or grandparents or older individuals who are relative caregivers.

Presented by: Human Resources Committee
Yes Votes: Beth Alexander, Lisa J. Billy, Linda Briggs, Katie Case, Tim Colbert, Shana Hammond, Toby Perkins, David Woerz, Scott Wood, Steve Woods

General Resolution Number 34-004
Authorization for Acquisition of Real Property in Bryan County

Explanation: This Resolution approves the Chickasaw Nation's request to acquire real property in Bryan County, Oklahoma, for Chickasaw Nation historic preservation, described below:

The N ½ of the NW ¼ of the SE ¼ of the SE ¼; and the E ½ of the SE ¼ of the SE ¼ ; and the SE ¼ of the NE ¼ of the SE ¼ of Section 22; and the W ½ of the SW ¼ of Section 23, Township 5 South, Range 7 East, except and excluding that part and portion lying South of the North right-of-way line of State Highway 199, excepting all the oil, gas and other mineral rights previously severed or reserved.

Property Location: 3348 OK-199, Durant, OK 74701
Use: for Chickasaw Nation historic preservation
Purpose: self-determination

Presented by: Land Development Committee

Yes Votes: Beth Alexander, Lisa J. Billy, Linda Briggs, Katie Case, Tim Colbert, Shana Hammond, Toby Perkins, David Woerz, Scott Wood, Steve Woods

General Resolution Number 34-005
Approving an Oil and Gas Lease in Coal County
On Jointly Owned Chickasaw Nation and Choctaw Nation Land In favor of Cinco Energy Land Services, LLC.

Explanation: This resolution approves the Chickasaw Nation's approving an Oil and Gas Lease in Coal County, Oklahoma, described as: An undivided ½ interest: Beginning 1,903 feet East of the NW corner of Section 32, Township 1 North, Range 9 East, thence South 208.7 feet; thence East 208.7 feet; thence North 208.7 feet; thence West 208.7 feet to the point of beginning, in Section 32, Township 1 North, Range 9 East, Coal County, Oklahoma.

Presented by: Land Development Committee
Yes Votes: Beth Alexander, Lisa J. Billy, Linda Briggs, Katie Case, Tim Colbert, Shana Hammond, Toby Perkins, David Woerz, Scott Wood, Steve Woods

Permanent Resolution Number 34-001
Resolution Amending the Rules of the Legislature (Tie Vote)

Explanation: This resolution adopts and approves amendments to Title 16, Chapter 1 Section 16-101.3 of the Chickasaw Nation Code. The amendments will provide guidance should the Legislature encounter a tie vote when electing officers at its first Session of each fiscal year.

Presented By: Legislative Committee
Yes Votes: Beth Alexander, Lisa J. Billy, Linda Briggs, Katie Case, Tim Colbert, Shana Hammond, Toby Perkins, David Woerz, Scott Wood, Steve Woods

Permanent Resolution Number 34-002
Amendments to Title 16, Chapter 1 Section 16-101.12of the Chickasaw Nation Code (Copies and Recordings)

Explanation: This resolution approves and adopts amendments to Title 16, Chapter 1 Section 16-101.12 of the Chickasaw Nation Code. The amendments will update the availability of Legislative Session minutes and recordings to Chickasaw citizens.

Presented By:Legislative Committee
Yes Votes: Beth Alexander, Lisa J. Billy, Linda Briggs, Katie Case, Tim Colbert, Shana Hammond, Toby Perkins, David Woerz, Scott Wood, Steve Woods

Permanent Resolution Number 34-003
Amendments to Title 16, Chapter 2 Section 16-201.4 of the Chickasaw Nation Code (Ad Hoc Committees)

Explanation: This resolution approves and adopts amendments to Title 16, Chapter 2 Section 16-201.4 of the Chickasaw Nation Code. The amendments will add the Code Development Ad Hoc Committee to the list of ad hoc committees.

Presented By: Legislative Committee
Yes Votes: Lisa J. Billy, Linda Briggs, Tim Colbert, Shana Hammond, Toby Perkins, David Woerz, Scott Wood, Steve Woods
No votes: Beth Alexander, Katie Case

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Land Development Committee - November 7, 2016
Present: Beth Alexander, Lisa J. Billy, Linda Briggs, Dean McManus, Steve Woods, David Woods
Absent: Tim Colbert

Legislative Committee - November 7, 2016
Present: Beth Alexander, Connie Barker, Lisa Billy, Linda Briggs, Katie Case, Nancy Elliott, Dean McManus, Toby Perkins, David Woerz, Scott Wood, Steve Woods
Absent: Tim Colbert, Shana Hammond
Human Resources Committee - November 7, 2016
Present: Katie Case, Nancy Elliott, Shana Hammond, Dean McManus, Toby Perkins

Finance Committee - October 17, 2016
Present: Tim Colbert, Nancy Elliott, Toby Perkins, David Woerz
Absent: Linda Briggs, Steve Woods

Committee of the Whole - September 12, 2016
Present: Lisa J. Billy, Katie Case, Tim Colbert, Nancy Elliott, Shana Hammond, Dean McManus, Toby Perkins, David Woerz, Scott Wood, Steve Woods, Connie Barker
Absent: Beth Alexander, Linda Briggs

OBITUARIES

Mary Magdalene Mayes Stanford



On Tuesday, January 26, 2016, Mary Magdalene Mayes Stanford, 86, of Ada took her final journey to meet her savior. Services were 2 p.m., January 29 at the Criswell Funeral Home Chapel with Steve Robinson officiating. A private burial will follow in the family cemetery.

She was born during a blizzard on January 19, 1930 to Walter L. and original enrollee, Dorena Ayakatubby Mayes. Mary was born at the home of her aunts, Agnes and Mary Ayakatubby in Jesse, Oklahoma, only weighing three pounds at birth and had to be placed in a chicken incubator.

Mary attended school in Jesse, Stonewall and the Haskell Indian High School in Lawrence, Kansas before attending nurses training in Kansas City.

She married Glenn Stanford. He preceded her in death after 55 years of marriage. Mrs. Stanford was the driving force that facilitated Glenn's success and graciously contributed to her community by serving as an election judge in Brazoria County, Texas for 25 plus years, as a life member of Beta Sigma Phi, a member of the League of Women Voters, and as a precinct representative to the Texas State Republican Convention.

She belonged to the Pearland, Alvin, Bayshore and Houston Garden Clubs and the Pearland Grandmas Club. Since moving from Pearland to Ada, she enjoyed attending the Connerville Chickasaw Community Council

meetings and treasured the new friends she made.

She is survived by her children, Vickye Gordon and husband Kenneth, Rickye Stanford and Mark Stanford, all of Ada; six grand-children, Will Gordon, Jeromye and wife Laura Gordon, Glenn Stanford, II, Rickye Stanford, Jr., Rebecca Stanford and Catherine Stanford; and six great-grandchildren, Mistye, Devon, Bradlye and Christian Gordon of Danville, IN and Michael and Natalye Gordon of Ardmore.

She was preceded in death by her parents; a sister, Lilly C. Wilson; a brother, Harmon A. Mayes; and the love of her life and husband, Glenn S. Stanford.

The family says those who wish may make memorials to the American Stroke Association, 5916 Dearborn Street, Mission, KS 66202; or the Parkinson's Research Foundation, 1501 NW 9th Ave., Miami, FL 33136.

Obituaries may be viewed and online condolences sent to criswellfh.com.

Marie Beck



Fluent speaker passes on at 92 TISHIMINGO, Okla. - Marie Beck, a recipient of the Silver Feather Award and former chairperson of both the Chickasaw Nation Language Committee and the Council of Elders, passed away Nov. 8 in a Tishomingo hospital.

"My condolences go out to Marie's family and close friends," Governor Bill Anoatubby said. "It is a time of great sadness for all of us who knew Marie. She was

dedicated to her family and committed to preserving and revitalizing the Chickasaw language and culture. Marie was a treasured elder whose loss will be felt throughout the Chickasaw Nation."

A fluent speaker of Chickasaw, she worked with the Chickasaw Nation multimedia department to produce and narrate an animated video of the traditional story, "How Rabbit Lost Its Tail." Her death comes just a month after the Chickasaw Nation lost another fluent speaker, Jerry Imotichey, to illness in October.

Her passing leaves approximately 40 fluent speakers.

Services for Mrs. Beck, 92, were Nov. 11 at Sandy Creek Presbyterian Church in Fillmore, Okla. Rev. Jay Downing officiated, assisted by Brother Luther John. Interment was in Sandy Creek Cemetery.

She was born on May 4, 1924, in Fillmore to Lyman Colbert and Nancy (John) Colbert. She attended Fillmore Schools and was a lifelong resident of Johnston County. Mrs. Beck worked for the First State Bank, Bank of Southern Oklahoma and finally for Landmark Bank in Tishomingo as a hostess and housekeeper, from which she retired after more than 30 years of service. She was a longtime member of the Sandy Creek Presbyterian Church and a proud member of The Chickasaw Nation.

Mrs. Beck was preceded in death by her parents; two sons, Jimmy and Eddie Beck; two grandsons, Jared Jones and Timothy Beck; a sister, Rena Smith; and two brothers, Watson and Fred Colbert.

She is survived by a daughter, Sharon Frazier, of Tishomingo; three sons, Allen Beck and his wife, Liz, of Milburn, Tom Beck, of Kingston, Okla., and Anthony Beck, of Ada, Okla.; eight grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; numerous other relatives and a host of friends.

Serving as casket bearers were Nicholas and Joshua Frazier, Harrison Byars, Josh Factor, Daniel Vandevier and Travis John.

Avanzini makes Chickasaw Foundation an annual priority

Phyllis Avanzini has been contributing to the Chickasaw Foundation Employee Charitable Contribution Plan since 2003.

Ms. Avanzini is a senior advisor for the Chickasaw Nation Department of Family Services. She graduated from Oklahoma State University and later completed her graduate studies at East Central University. In her spare time, she enjoys following OSU sports, participating in textile art classes at the Artesian Gallery, reading and spending time with family.

The Chickasaw Foundation is a great way to support education, health, historical and activities and programs for Chickasaw citizens. Whether



PHYLLIS AVANZINI

opening a door to education, facilitating emergency relief or promoting Chickasaw culture, the Chickasaw Foundation effectively delivers and provides a path to give back and invest in the value of others.

Citizen ‘pays it forward’ with scholarships



In honor of his mother, Chickasaw citizen Patrick Wyers created a scholarship inspired by his mother and her strong beliefs in education.

Chickasaw citizen Patrick Wyers is a proud supporter of the Chickasaw Foundation. The generosity and support the Foundation has shown to his grandchildren inspired Mr. Wyers to “pay it forward” to future students. In 2016, he established the Ruth Oteka Oliphant Wyers Memorial Scholarship in honor of his mother.

Ruth Wyers graduated from Oklahoma State University and taught in public school systems for 15 years. Mr. Wyers describes his mother as a wise and determined woman, who would always tell her children, “You must get an education. If you don’t you will be like a tree that never gets leaves.”

Mr. Wyers pursued an engineering degree at Oklahoma State. Mr. Wyers’ education was put on hold in 1957, when he did two years of military service. After serving, he resumed his education while raising a family.

After graduating, Mr. Wyers began working for the Boeing Company in New Orleans. He was also part of the Saturn V rocket project that led to the moon landing. He then moved to Fort Worth, Texas before transitioning to a successful career in the real estate business.

With part-time jobs and military benefits, Mr. Wyers graduated from college debt-free. This shaped his belief in the importance of scholarships. When his brother and his grandchildren received scholarships, Mr. Wyers developed a passion for giving back.

Mr. Wyers’ strong beliefs in scholarships and students succeeding in college inspired him to establish two additional scholarships through other organizations. The scholarships honor his brother, Paul Wyers and his wife, Mary Ellen Wyers.

Mr. Wyers has also been involved in fundraising efforts for the Fort Worth Southwest Lions Club and is a member of the Oklahoma State University Alumni Association.

CONTRIBUTED BY Carmen Carter, Public Affairs.

Holiday canvas paint classes set for Dec. 17 in Ada and Sulphur

Chickasaw Nation Arts & Humanities introduces holiday canvas paint classes.

The classes will be Saturday, Dec. 17 in both Sulphur and Ada. Classes will run from 10 a.m. - noon and 1-3 p.m. at both locations.

This event is open to the public and allows families the opportunity to create holiday-themed Native designs through painting.

Class size is limited. Classes will be:

- Arts & Humanities building 201 N. Broadway, Ada, Okla.
- ARTesian Gallery and Studios 100 West Muskogee St., Sulphur, Okla.

For more information, or to enroll, contact Arts & Humanities at (580) 272-5520.

Families enjoy Hayaka Unta Camp

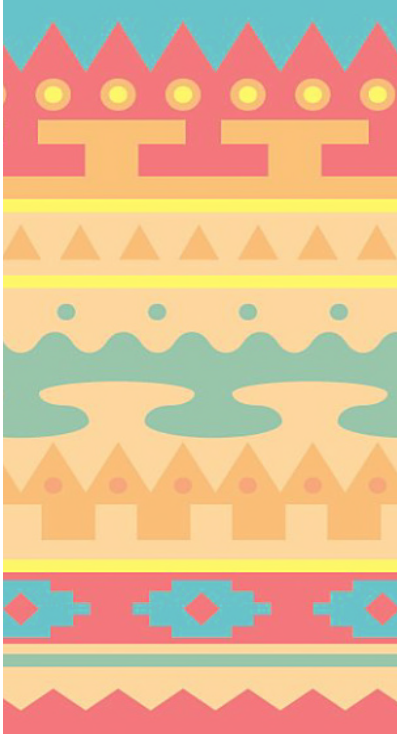
SULPHUR, Okla. - For most families, spring and summer are popular seasons for camping. However, many define fall as the perfect time to embark on a camping adventure. This fall, many families enjoyed the Chickasaw Nation Hayaka Unta Camp, Oct. 14-16, at Camp Goddard in Sulphur.

Hayaka Unta allows families a chance to get away from everyday life and spend quality time with each other. This camp strengthens family bonds by getting away from some of life’s distractions. Families who do not spend a lot of time outdoors regain respect and understand the beauty of nature again.

Hayaka Unta is offered twice a year, in spring and fall. Chickasaw youth are encouraged to apply in advance, when applications are available.

For more information, contact Chickasaw Nation Youth Services at (580) 310-6620 or visit www.chickasaw.net

CONTRIBUTED BY Carmen Carter, Public Affairs.



Bailey Dunn and Jacobe Jeece at Lake Artbuckle at Camp Goddard in Sulphur, Oklahoma.



Emma, Eric and Cooper Hardison enjoy the fall weather at Hayaka Unta Camp in Sulphur, Oklahoma.



The Hamilton family relax by the campfire at Hayaka Unta Camp in Sulphur, Oklahoma. Back row from left: Ryan Hamilton, Daniel Hamilton, Caitlin Hamilton. Front row from left parents, Herschel and Michelle Hamilton.

Eagle Adventure

Chokma!
Mr. Eagle's Nest is a place to share tips for keeping your body strong and healthy.

Together we can prevent diabetes!

Mr. Eagle's Nest

As the temperatures get cooler and the leaves change color, we know that fall is upon us. I like to fly around and see families spend time together outdoors to keep their bodies healthy and strong. While you enjoy the changing seasons, try spending time outside with your family and friends. Evening walks and camping are sure to bring a fun time.

Do you know why pirates like to go camping?

So they can get outside and enjoy the fresh ahhh!

The Chickasaw word for making a camp is *albinachi*. Try saying *albinachi* out loud.

Remember to try some outdoor activities this season and share your ideas with Mr. Eagle and his friends!
Visit www.eagleadventure.com or call 580-272-5596 to share how you and your family will stay active as the seasons change.

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Shop the Chickasaw Council House Museum store for all your holiday gift items!

Sale ends December 30.

the Chickasaw Nation

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